

JESS THARPE

850-661-8027
Jesstharpe@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Executive Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Community & System Building
- Public Administration
- Non-Profit Administration
- Budget Management
- Policy Analysis & Management
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Crisis Management
- Contract Administration & Management
- Multi-Million Dollar Contract Negotiation
- Federal/State Grant Management & Reporting
- Federal/State Grant Writing & Review
- Program Development & Implementation
- Public Policy & Advocacy
- Project Management
- Emergency Management

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Child & Family Intervention & Prevention
- Child Welfare
- Human Trafficking
- Domestic Violence
- Homelessness
- Runaway & Homeless Youth Services
- Emergency Shelter, Transitional Living, & Street Outreach Management
- Trauma Informed & Trauma Responsive Care

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Secretary of Community Services | DCF | July 2023-Present

- Established new Office of Community Services to ensure dedicated leadership and prevention focus for special programs including domestic violence, human trafficking, adult protection, and homelessness
- Oversight and management of Hope Florida to assist Floridians on a pathway to prosperity
- Launched initiatives to enhance services for special populations including the Healthy Teen Dating Toolkit for teens, electronic Human Trafficking Screening tool, Human Trafficking Toolkit for parents, a new Hope Florida technology system, and the Hope Florida mobile unit
- Reduced vacancies in critical class positions by 14%
- Emergency Management, Response, and Deployment of Hope Florida program during natural disasters

Assistant Secretary of Child & Family & Well-Being | DCF | December 2021-July 2023

- Oversight and management of 3,000+ team members and budget of \$1.3 billion
- Reduced number of children entering care by 24.4% and number of children in care by 11.5%
- Launched initiatives to enhance services including Father First, Continue the Mission, Safe Space, MyYouthPortal, and an electronic Human Trafficking Screening Tool
- Established Prevention Grants to push \$20M in funding out to local communities
- Secured critical funding to support the retention and professionalization of Child Protective Investigators
- Transitioned multiple community-based systems of care to new Lead Agencies and Sheriff's Office Child Protection operations back to DCF
- Led the redesign of training for child welfare professionals
- Led Phase 1 of CCWIS technology redesign
- Responded and deployed Family Resource and Support Centers post-Hurricane events to ensure Floridians had immediate access to basic needs and Navigation services

JESS THARPE

850-661-8027
Jesstharpe@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare | DCF | January 2020-December 2021

- Created a culture that values child and family well-being and improved program effectiveness through prevention and integration
- Oversight of all units including the Abuse Hotline, Child Welfare Policy & Practice, Strategic Planning, Protective & Supportive Services, Child Care, Critical Incident Rapid Response Team, Continuing Care, and Contracts & Grants
- Oversight of administration and general management of the office including staffing, supervision, budget management, business operations, communications, legislative affairs, audits, reporting, and project management
- Launched initiatives to enhance services including Florida's Foster Information Center, the Office of Continuing Care, the Hope Line, and implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act

Director of Innovation & Project Management for the Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency | DCF | July 2019-January 2020

- Established Innovation & Project Management unit, including governance, oversight, reporting and tracking of projects, program improvement, and training
- Oversight of grants, change management, and innovation
- 4DX Coach for 40+ staff
- Received TaxWatch Government Productivity Award

Director of Major Gifts | TCC Foundation | November 2018-July 2019

- Planned and established major gifts program to ensure long term sustainability through stewardship, recognition, prospecting, engagement, and exemplification of donor leadership
- Coordinated with other staff and College units to ensure implementation of Scholarship, Alumni, Grant, Stewardship, and other giving programs

Outreach & Development Director, Street Outreach Program Director | CCYS | April 2014-October 2018

- Member of the Executive Leadership team and provided oversight and strategic leadership. Represented the organization at external meetings, conferences, and events in absence of CEO-President
- Oversight of Street Outreach Program to ensure trauma informed services and resources for homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. Standardized program processes, case reviews, and policies
- Oversight of the Outreach & Development Unit. Built a strategic development portfolio and implemented major gift and endowment fund and increased fundraising revenue by 50%. Secured \$1M+ in grants
- Oversight of marketing, branding, communications & public relations. Led redesign of logo and agency brand
- Implemented agency outreach plan to educate youth, families, school systems, communities, and appropriate referrals sources about programs and services

JESS THARPE

850-661-8027
Jesstharpe@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

Rotech Healthcare | Sales Director | 2013-2014

American Health Imaging | Operations Manager | 2012-2013

American Health Imaging | Sales Assistant | 2010-2012

EDUCATION

*2018-Present, University of Central Florida, **Pursuing a Master's in Public Administration*

2004-2009, Florida State University, B.A., Humanities

2002-2004, University of North Florida, A.A.

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

2016 Jim Moran Institute Tallahassee, FL
Non-Profit Executive Program Certificate

2015 Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, Chicago, IL
Major Gifts Solicitation Certificate

2015 Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, Chicago, IL
Fundraising and Marketing Certificate

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Healthy Families Advisory Council, 2022-2023

Child and Family Well-Being Council, 2021-Present

Dependency Court Improvement Panel, 2021-2023

Junior League of Tallahassee, 2009-2016