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**Children's Law Center**

Michelle Dhunjishah

# Focus of “Children’s Law Centers”

- ☐ Abuse & Neglect
- ☐ Adoption
- ☐ Commercial & Sexual Exploitation
- ☐ Custody
- ☐ Disabilities
- ☐ Domestic Violence
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Immigration
- ☐ Juvenile Justice



# Services Provided by “Children’s Law Centers”

- ☐ Convening Stakeholders
- ☐ Direct Representation
- ☐ Impact Litigation
- ☐ Policy Work
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Teaching/Training
- ☐ Technical Assistance



# South Carolina

Advancing children's law by strengthening public policy, increasing knowledge, and improving practice.



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# Children Served in Foster Care

State	Children	State	Children
Alabama	7,989	Arkansas	7,759
Florida	36,843	Georgia	17,447
Kentucky	12,546	Louisiana	8,293
Mississippi	7,371	Missouri	18,678
North Carolina	15,011	Oklahoma	16,851
South Carolina	7,038	Tennessee	13,323
Texas	47,492	Virginia	7,479
West Virginia	8,417		

**Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families**

Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau  
Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

Data as of June 2016

Available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption-fy15>



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# Supporting & Strengthening South Carolina's Foster Care System

- ☐ Bench-Bar Committee
- ☐ Children's Justice Act Task Force
- ☐ Citizen Review Panel
- ☐ Court Liaisons
- ☐ Joint Citizens & Legislative Committee on Children
- ☐ Training



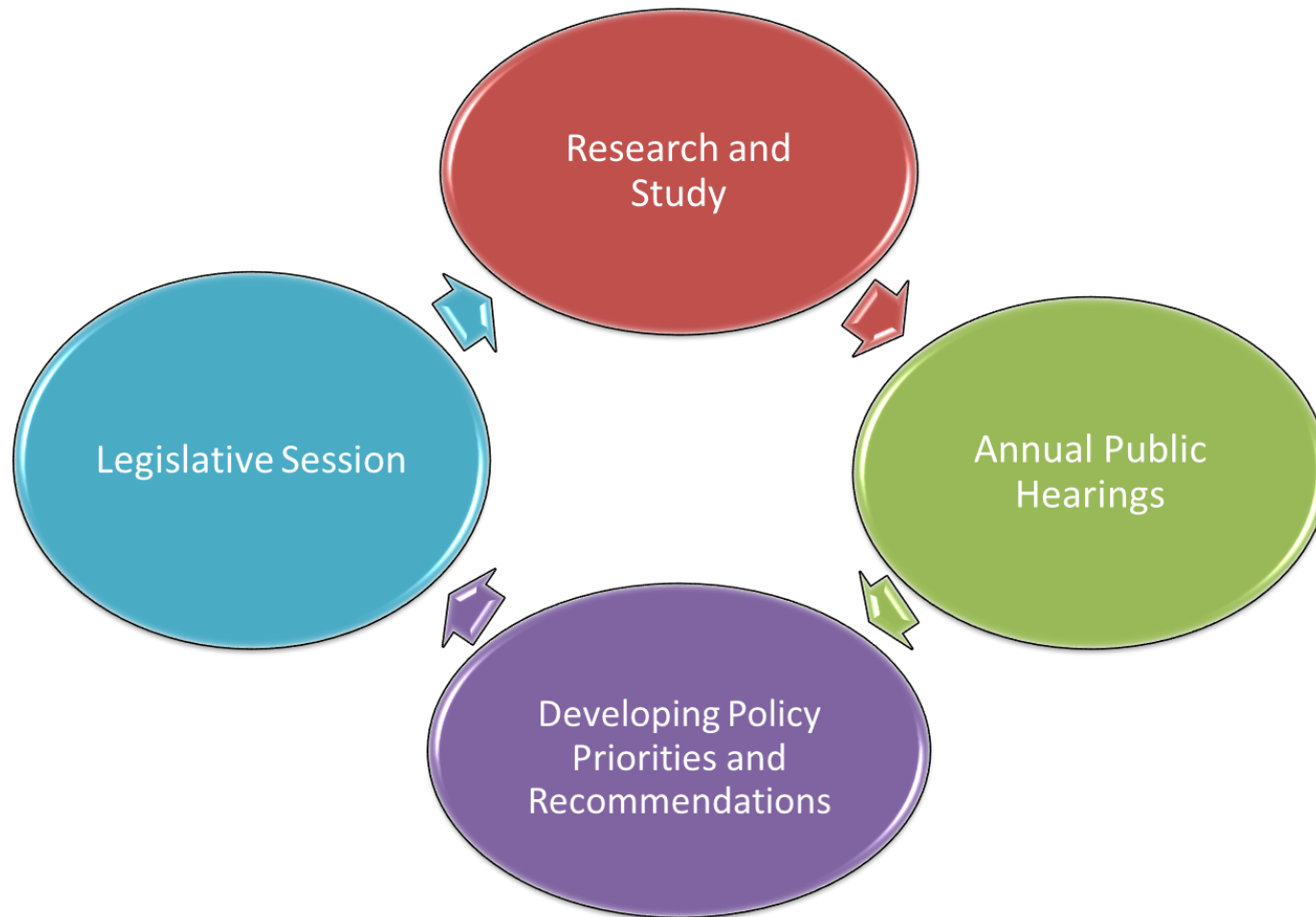
# Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children

- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Goals

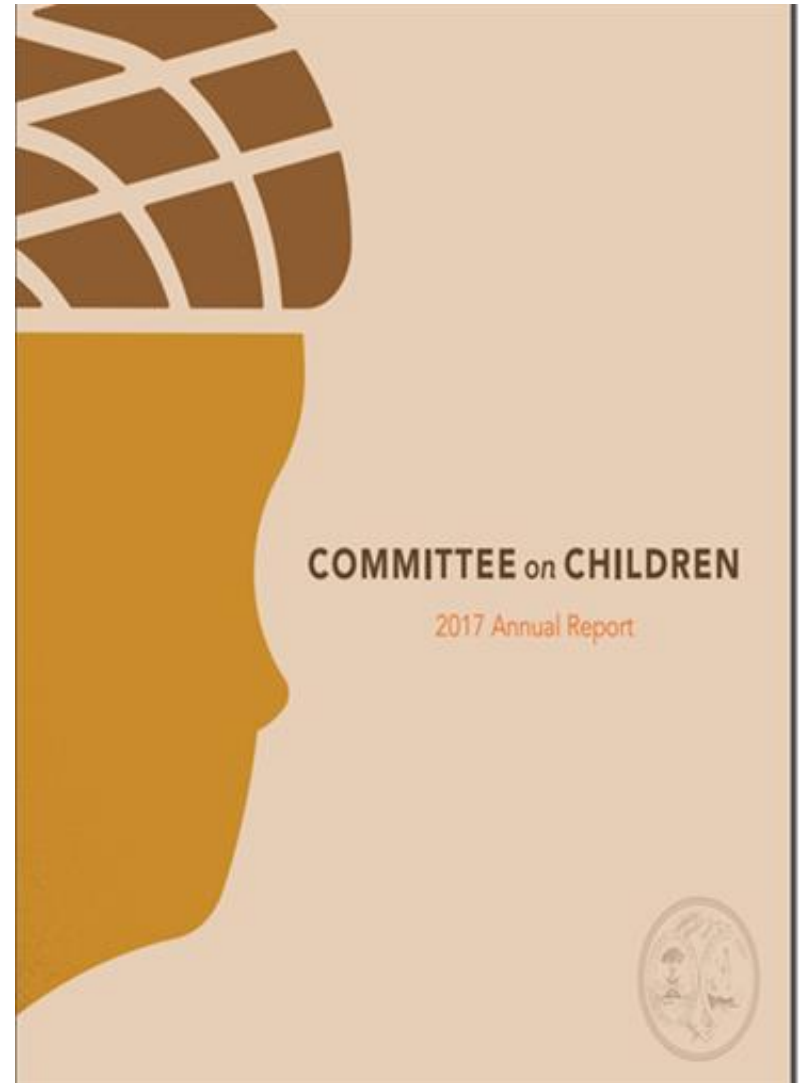




# JCLCC Process



- ☐ Supporting Children in Poverty
- ☐ Protecting Children from Abuse & Neglect
- ☐ Protecting Child Physical & Mental Well-Being
- ☐ Protecting Youth & Supporting Responsible Decision-Making



# Public Policy Initiatives

- ☐ Kinship Care
- ☐ Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care
- ☐ Commercial & Sexual Exploitation of Children



# Dum Spiro Spero



While I breathe I hope



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