EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2-20
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

WHEREAS, the Kenney Administration has an unwavering commitment to increasing opportunity, equity and improving the quality of life for Philadelphia’s children and families;

WHEREAS, more than 6,000 three-and four-year-old children have participated in free, quality pre-K since 2017 because of the City of Philadelphia’s PHLpreK initiative;

WHEREAS, PHLpreK has significantly improved the program quality of nearly forty early childhood education providers over three years, transforming the local early learning landscape;

WHEREAS, the Community Schools Initiative has increased supportive services for students, families, and residents at seventeen schools, resulting in improved student attendance which is essential for raising academic performance;

WHEREAS, Community Schools leverage city resources and investments including out-of-school-time programs, summer jobs and adult education to strengthen communities and support student outcomes;

WHEREAS, since 2016, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has significantly improved outcomes for children through its commitment to keeping children with family and by supporting families with community-based prevention services, leading to one thousand fewer children in DHS care;

WHEREAS, DHS has significantly decreased the use of congregate care through its commitment to less restrictive settings and increased support with resources that keep youth in their own homes and communities and improved school stability;
WHEREAS, DHS has expanded prevention and diversion services through family engagement services, free legal counsel for landlord/tenant issues and promotion of access to public benefits, with 5,614 families referred last year;

WHEREAS, DHS has made major investments in quality out-of-school-time programming for youth, making unprecedented efforts to align those investments with the School District of Philadelphia’s educational goals;

WHEREAS, DHS has made significant investments to ensure thousands of Philadelphia youth have access to summer jobs through Work Ready Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, DHS has improved transparency of both data and provider evaluations, making it a leader for performance management for child welfare and juvenile justice, both statewide and nationally;

WHEREAS, creating a stronger city starts with safer children, stronger families and supported schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES F. KENNEY, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the powers vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. Office of Children and Families

The Office of Children and Families is hereby created within the Office of the Mayor, headed by the Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, who shall report directly to the Mayor and shall be a member of the Mayor’s Cabinet. The Deputy Mayor shall:

(1) Supervise and coordinate the operations and prevention services of the Department of Human Services, PHLpreK, Philadelphia Community Schools, their associated
boards, committees and commissions and any other related department, agency, board, office, committee or commission as directed by the Mayor.

(2) Work with the Mayor and other senior Administration staff to ensure the implementation of Mayoral policies and initiatives.

(3) Represent the Mayor, when so directed by the Mayor, on any board, committee, commission or corporation of which the Mayor is a member.

(4) Subject to the approval of the Mayor, hire deputies and assistants to assist in the effective supervision and coordination of assigned departments, agencies, boards and commissions.

(5) Perform such other duties as the Mayor may direct.

SECTION 2. *Children and Families Cabinet.*

The Deputy Mayor for Children and Families shall serve as the Chairperson of a Philadelphia Children and Families Cabinet, composed of senior leaders from City offices and departments that provide services to children and families and School District of Philadelphia representatives, as shall be further defined by the Mayor. The purpose of the Cabinet shall be to coordinate City activities, services, resources and policies in alignment and partnership with the School District in order to improve outcomes for all Philadelphia children and families, build stronger communities and support great schools in every neighborhood. The Cabinet shall also seek substantive and strategic input from community leaders, not-for-profit organizations and academic institutions who work to improve the lives of Philadelphia’s children.
SECTION 3. **Memorandum of Understanding.**

(1) The Managing Director shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (attached as Exhibit A) with the Mayor, pursuant to which the Mayor, through the Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, will assume responsibility for supervision of the Department of Human Services. That Memorandum of Understanding is approved.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.**

This Order shall take effect immediately.

\[1/6/20\]

Date

[Signature]

James F. Kenney, Mayor