

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET
TUESDAY, January 13, 2009
MEETING MINUTES
Florida State University Foundation Board Room □ Innovation Park
Tallahassee, Florida

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. Please contact sharon.read@eog.myflorida.com for instructions on obtaining a DVD of the proceedings.

Children and Youth Cabinet Members in attendance:

- Jeff Kottkamp, Lieutenant Governor, State of Florida
- Jim Kallinger, Chief Child Advocate, Governor's Office, Acting Chairman
- Loranne Ausley, Representative (Speaker of the House Designee)
- Dick Batchelor, President, Dick Batchelor Management Group
- Monesia Brown, Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation
- Toni Crawford, Chairperson, Early Learning Coalition of Duval
- James DeBeaugrine, Executive Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Theresa Flury, Executive Director, Guardian Ad Litem
- Cynthia Guerra, South Florida Deputy Attorney General (AG Designee)
- Gay Lancaster, Executive Director, Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board
- David Lawrence, President, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation
- Frank Peterman, Jr., Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Nan Rich, Senator (Senate President Designee)
- Judy Schaechter, M.D., Director, Injury Free Coalition for Kids, Miami
- George Sheldon, Secretary, Department of Children & Families
- Eric J. Smith, Commissioner, Department of Education
- Ana Viamonte Ros, State Surgeon General, Department of Health

Children and Youth Cabinet Members attending by telephone

None

Children and Youth Cabinet Members unable to attend:

Maureen Dinnen, Vice Chair, Broward County School Board (CFO) Designee

Justice Fred Lewis, Florida Supreme Court

Holly Benson, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration*

*Michele Talent represented

Proceedings

The Cabinet Meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Lieutenant Governor and Chairman Jeff Kottkamp.

After roll call was taken by Sharon Read, the Chairman declared that there was a quorum present. The Chairman personally welcomed the members and audience, laying out the agenda for the meeting.

The Chairman requested that T. K. Wetherell, President of Florida State University, approach the podium; President Wetherell gave a heartfelt welcome to the Cabinet. The Chairman then announced that on September 30, 2008, Governor Crist named George Sheldon, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families; he also announced that Theresa Flury has been named as Executive Director of the Guardian Ad Litem program by the Governor effective December 22, 2008 and then thanked Dennis Moore for his contributions to the Cabinet as Interim Director of the Guardian Ad Litem program.

The Chairman recognized Senator Rich who thanked Senator Atwater for reappointing her to the Children's Cabinet.

The Chairman announced that due to a scheduling conflict, we would take one public presentation out of order on the agenda and called External Affairs Director Rubin Almaguer, from the Florida Division of Emergency Management to the floor. Mr. Almaguer gave an overview of Kids Weather Survival Week on January 31, 2009 in down town Disney.

Under **Old Business**, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the July 14, 2008 and September 23, 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

The Chairman announced that he would like to share some exciting news. He stated that the Cabinet had made excellent strides on the tasks that have been assigned to the members and committees, not only as directed by Statute but also by the Cabinet's Strategic Plan and that one of the primary tasks of the Cabinet as outlined in the Florida Statutes was to "design and implement actions that will promote collaboration, creativity, increased efficiency, information sharing and improved service delivery between and within state governmental organizations that provide services for children and youth and their families." Further, for the past year, the Cabinet has been researching and planning the implementation of a Data Information Sharing System based on a proven and successful seven year Data Information Sharing System of the Supreme Court; a multimillion dollar infrastructure already in place, which will allow our agencies and departments that service children to better communicate and share needed information in a real time and efficient manner. The system, when in place, will improve service delivery and gain comprehensive views of our children at a time when resources are limited. He went on to say that we will accomplish this landmark effort on behalf of the children of our state and realize an overall cost savings as has been demonstrated by the exhaustive cost/benefit analysis conducted by each of the Cabinet's respective agencies. The Chairman went on to say

that this is a minimal investment for the connection of new data sources; software and support that will help service Florida's children and their families now and into the future. With that, and on behalf of Governor Crist, the Lieutenant Governor instructed all of the Children's Cabinet agencies to move forward with implementation of the Data Information Sharing System with an anticipated launch date of July 1, 2009. The Chairman requested that all Agency Heads direct their staff to participate in forth coming important project planning and design sessions.

The Chairman personally acknowledged and thanked Jim Kallinger and Jennifer Diaz for their tireless work in putting this Cabinet in the position to implement the system stating that we could not have accomplished this landmark effort without them. Additional thanks were expressed to Justice Lewis who really set the ball in motion.

Next on the agenda were committee reports. The Chairman called on Toni Crawford, Chairperson for Committee #1 Inter Agency Agreements. Miss Crawford took the opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work. She announced that Jennifer Diaz would be in contact with all agency heads, budget chiefs or other parties of interest to schedule a meeting on the plan and design questions and answers that will be needed to be asked and answered in order to meet the July 1st deadline.

The Chairman then called on Gay Lancaster, Chairperson for Committee #2 The Budget, for a status report. Miss Lancaster stated that significant strides on a staff level have been made despite the continuation of nomenclature issues tied to the Summit Work Group and that she would have a report at the next meeting. The Chairman encouraged the participation by all present to give Gay all the help each agency can give to her committee, especially with the nomenclature issue. Miss Ausley stated that she thought the level of frustration was gone to which Miss Lancaster stated that it was not gone and that until we know precisely how much money is spent on children, the frustration would not be gone; that we need to be well informed and suggested the need for the services of a budget guru; she looks forward to hearing from Ted Granger on the common benchmark issues.

Mr. Kallinger stated that there are a handful of other states that have a budget and that the National Governor's Association has tools that would be of use to us and that they have offered technical assistance if needed. Mr. Kallinger will have staff reach out to the NGA staff in an effort to assist Miss Lancaster.

The Chairman called on Dick Batchelor, Chairman of Committee #3, Commissions, Councils and Task Forces Reports. Mr. Batchelor stated that his committee had met twice and had received a number of presentations. He voiced his concern on setting priorities without knowing what the Legislature has done or is doing and the impact on the budget. Mr. Batchelor's consensus is that we need to go to the Governor with the question, what kind of role can the CYC play that will be helpful in the coordinated effort? We established benchmarks; would it be helpful to the Legislature that the CYC has done all this work?

The Chairman stated that the CYC is a new concept and a learning process. We will have to deal with the confines that are created and address duplications and separate issues one at a time.

On to New Business.

The Chairman then called Ted Granger, representing the Children's Summit Work Group to the podium for a status update. Mr. Granger stated that they are moving along well on the two reports (which are filed with these notes) and will be able to give a full report at the March meeting. He stated that the Policy Group for Children and Family is the group actually conducting the studies and he expressed his gratitude for the time been spent on the issues. Mr. Granger stated the screening process is not being shared as it should or could among the agencies. The study is to review and make recommendations regarding how we might better communicate and exchange information from the screening tools. At least 200 surveys have been sent out requesting screening information and 175 have been returned and are being analyzed with the help of screening experts.

Regarding the second report, The State of the Child, Mr. Granger hopes that it will become the Cabinet's report on accountability for future projects, providing benchmarks on where we stand as a state on child outcomes in several areas and in yardsticks down the line, provide information on what the Cabinet is doing and what the Legislature is doing. There are four goals; 1) healthy children 2) children ready to learn and succeed 3) supportive communities and 4) safe and nurturing families. All will have childhood outcomes; which they hope to tie in with the budget.

Miss Ausley congratulated Mr. Granger on the work stating that his work and Gay Lancaster's work to be the most important task that the Cabinet has taken on. Mr. Batchelor thanked Mr. Granger for his hard work and questioned the testing instruments that were used. Mr. Granger stated that the screening will be the first step - the next should the Cabinet decide to take it, will be following up on the testing. Mr. Batchelor stated that his interest would be in the battery of tests that is done and how early risk can be detected, rather than later. Mr. Granger stated that they will be looking at the comprehensive studies done by the agencies across the state and that Dr. Alisa Ghazvini will be at the next meeting to elaborate more.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Granger to address the Children's Summit Work Group's Legislative Priorities, which are filed with this report. Mr. Granger stated that since two of the three priorities relate to asking for more money, the Work Group recognized the financial crisis and the impact it would have on thousands of kids, and systems of care that are comprehensive and seamless, however, he believes that the CYC may be the best vehicle to substantiate a change, thus the money issues. He stated how pleased the Work Group is with the work done by Staff, but it will be essential that the Cabinet secure funding due to the volume of work remaining. The work is fundamental and is not fast work. Mr. Granger stated he was thrilled to hear the Governor's endorsement on proceeding with the Data Information Sharing issue in order to reap serious savings in the future, great leadership for the Governor and all the agencies. The third priority is regarding Florida Kid Care program which Representative Ausley and Senator Rich are fully versed on and pertains to administrative changes that can be made in terms of loss of coverage and finding good cause exceptions among others.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Granger for his service and interest, and then opened the floor for questions or comments.

Senator Rich commented that they do have the legislation and it is being filed; the Work Group has come together and all the pieces referenced are a part of the package; she requested that Mr. Granger double check it. She understands that it will be filed on the House side as well. Senator Rich also brought up the issue of reauthorization of the SCHIP Program; that it will not do any good to reauthorize without a waiver in terms of enrollment. Coming up with the GR is the problem. Revenue for pregnant woman would be very difficult at this time. She is hoping and urging everyone to take a look at the legislation. It is a must to get the legislation passed to get kids enrolled and keep them enrolled.

Mr. Lawrence inquired of the Chairman if the Governor's Office would endorse all three of the priorities presented. The Chairman responded that despite the financial situation, we still need to ask for funding; that for as little time as this Cabinet has been in existence, there have been many accomplishments. Short answer, yes.

Miss Ausley inquired whether or not the Cabinet could get specific on what we can support stating that we need to address the Outreach Program, especially the drop in enrollment. The Chairman stated that we should go with what the Work Group recommended despite the danger to go to far since we are a new body and we need to be some what conservative on how we move forward, especially with children until everyone gets use to the unified voice of the Cabinet. Dick Batchelor had asked about an update from the Legislature so the Chairman took this opportunity to inform everyone that we are still in the 72 hour hold and the Governor's Office has not had a briefing from the Office of Budget and Policy but when that analysis is done by the Governor's Office it will be made available to any Cabinet Member, including how the budget will impact the services to children. He stated that nationally people have looked at what this Cabinet is doing and are amazed, some other states have not even attempted what we have, despite the fact that it's not as fast as we would like, we are getting there. Mr. Chairman answered Miss Ausley by saying that he did not feel we should go beyond the Work Group at this time and frankly that the statute does not authorize the Cabinet to take specific issues on legislation, but recommendations we can make, especially with the support of a work group.

Miss Lancaster stated that she felt it possible to urge the Legislature to do everything possible to not leave money on the table, for Kid Care or others and to not turn our backs on available resources.

Dr. Schaechter stated that she would be disappointed not to take action on any federal money that was coming in and we did not avail ourselves and leave the children unprotected and uncared for stating if we don't use the dollars, children will get sicker and they could have things happen that we could have prevented and we will pay a whole lot more. Dr. Schaechter suggested we expand the recommendation accordingly to allow for out reach dollars and leveraging of funds when federal dollars come down.

Senator Rich is not too sure that the statute doesn't allow for us to at least frame support of a recommendation stating that it speaks volumes when all the state agencies are here and agree on an issue, the most important thing is to make sure that our children have health care and each agency is touched by this. She requested that we put out a letter of endorsement with all the agencies. Senator Rich said she was not able to get the language she wanted, that Health and

Human Services on the Senate side had some language that would have addressed money that comes down, that if it tied up general revenue within the health and human service budget that it would remain in that budget. Unfortunately the language did not make it affecting the federal stimulus money.

Miss Lancaster addressed Recommendation Number 3 from the Work Group and moved that the Cabinet support and advocate any action necessary to support same; further that the words "revenue neutral administrative" be stricken from the first sentence and that the entire second sentence of the Recommendation 3 be stricken. For the record, the recommendation from the Work Group was:

Recommendation 3 "The Cabinet should support and advocate for revenue neutral Administrative improvements to the Florida Kid Care program that will enable the state To maximize our federal funding allocation. Such improvements include but are not Limited to: reducing loss of coverage for late payments from 60 days to 30 days; good cause exceptions or leaving existing health insurance, reducing the 6 month wait to 90 Days; electronic income verification; Medicaid transition; etc.

For the record, the motion **revises Recommendation 3** to read as follows:

The Cabinet should support and advocate for improvements to the Florida Kid Care program that will enable the state to maximize our federal funding allocation.

Mr. Kallinger stated that a recommendation is just that unless it is perceived to have value as this body evolves, there will be more value placed on the Cabinet and our recommendations will become stronger and hold more value.

Mr. Lawrence reiterated that the Governor's Office will support all three of the recommendations and that the Data Sharing Information System is particularly exciting to all, adding that as we grow, we will have more power, so what is the downside to making the changes Gay suggests?

Mr. Kallinger stated that we can look at the budget and then the recommendation and if we believe in the recommendation, then we would go ahead and make it whether we perceive the money being there or not. He suggested that staff reach out to the various agencies and get a commitment from the agencies that they would offer assistance, not necessarily dollars, but people, man power.

The Chairman suggested that we ask each agency if they have some ball park figure that they could offer to the Cabinet, regarding some man power or assistance in the coming year. He then directed that we circle back to Miss Lancaster's motion on recommendation number 3 from the Work Group, removing the words "revenue neutral administrative" in the first sentence. As there was no further discussion, the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Sheldon requested to speak on the SCHIP Program stating that the Florida Office is fully cognizant of the new development because DCF has made recommendations pertaining to food

stamps and that they made a change at the federal level, which has received a lot of support and he has heard that it does very little good for the federal government to assess Chip unless they give states administratively the funds to operate.

The Chairman responded by saying that he will make sure that they are fully aware of this issue and thanked Mr. Sheldon for his service and all others for their hard work on the challenges that have never been greater.

Miss Flury questioned recommendation number 1 and if there was anyway we could hold off on voting and look into offers of help because any dollar we can get she would rather see it put to the implementation of the recommendation; she would rather offer up her services than to ask for money. The Chairman stated that it was possible, however, in this environment it does not matter if we make the recommendation, what is going to matter is what the agencies are going to be able to come back with. Even if we recognize that it is not going to happen, her question is a legitimate concern and the Chairman opened the question up to the Cabinet.

Miss Lancaster responded with, in other cabinets there is one focal person who is there to follow up on all the issues unlike the Cabinet members here, the funding is done with a percentage from each agency or office. She is not saying this is the right thing to do; she just wanted to speak to the fact that after all the work is done, there is a value to having the Cabinet staffed, and thanked the Governor's Office for all the work the staff has done. Focusing on staffing for the Cabinet would be the right thing to do.

Mr. Peterman agreed and dittoed the remarks of Miss Lancaster, especially in this budget tough year adding that we need to get serious because it is very important to staff the cabinet.

David Lawrence moved that we formally adopt all three recommendations of the Work Group as amended; motion seconded and carried.

Mr. Kallinger inquired what form of announcement should be made as to the recommendations, noting that we have an annual report that is due. The Chairman stated that we should include the recommendations in the annual report and we will do a letter as well.

Mr. Batchelor stated that the Cabinet is at a cross road where we need to decide what we need to be; that he has never seen such organized productive products come forth on which policy makers can make, but we should not become too tepid because if we do, efforts might be for not and we need to find a manner in which we tell the legislators; we could become inconsequential if they do not know what we do. He stated that if we polled the Legislators, they many might not know who we are and what we do, but if they did know of us and our mission statement, it might assist in the process of budget cuts. He does not want the Cabinet so tied up in the process that no one knows what we are doing. He would like for us to give some thought to what we would like to be to the Legislation.

Mr. Kallinger feels that we really can be of value to the Legislature, just by the number of agencies around the table as well as the Work Group and Gay's committee, who when they come

together with the budget and frame work of child indicators, the Legislation will look at us with real value, but the tools must be in place.

Mr. Batchelor agrees, but hopes that by the time we get there, we are not behind; just give thought that once we get it all put together, what kind of a Cabinet we want to be; a Cabinet that endorses things and advances things that the Legislation might say this is pertaining to children and come to the Cabinet.

The Chairman concurred with Mr. Kallinger in that as the Cabinet grows and puts into place the Data Information Sharing and a proposed budget, this will get the attention of the Legislation.

Dr. Schaechter stated that she knows that this Cabinet has little or no authority to make any recommendations on the budget cuts, but the budget cuts are so devastating that we should have a discussion how this is effecting our kids; this is not data that we have to find, there is plenty of data out there; we know what we are not spending on kids this year and next year; we should know where we stand with further budget cuts.

The Chairman responded by saying that this is an historic crisis in time; we have never faced in the history of Florida, the situation where the budget went down two years in a row, let alone 3 years; no Legislature has been forced to reduce the budget this much, ever and it's not even remotely related to Florida, it's national and inter-national; effecting Floridians young and old. As a Cabinet, we need to keep our eye on the future and work through this.

Dr. Schaechter stated that the Cabinet is the future for the children and with the state having under served children, amazing harm has been done; the discussion didn't happen in terms of what other revenue sources can we bring to the table and what benefits to our children like a cigarette tax would have is huge; it would be good to place on record the benefits of helping children through the tax.

The Chairman stated that he believes that we will see during the next session what to do about the cigarette tax and how it will effect revenue; it will be a healthy discussion. Dr. Schaechter interjected that every state that has passed the tax has seen a drop in smokers and an increase in healthier people.

Mr. Lawrence inquired if there is a well crafted statement regarding the cigarette tax that we could all sign addressing the issues Dr. Schaechter spoke to and would there be a value to craft such a statement, if not?

The Chairman stated that he does not know the answer because of our infancy state but that some day it will matter. Mr. Lawrence said history proves that you get more by pushing and shoving than by good will, take a look a Medicaid and social security; he volunteered to craft a statement for the Cabinet to sign, to get to the Legislation by March 2d.

Miss Lancaster agrees totally with Mr. Batchelor and Mr. Lawrence that it is time to be bold and there is an expectation that we should be, to say nothing says that this body has nothing and

agrees that Mr. Lawrence proffer a statement for consideration, validating that children are important and thought of first, in terms of not harming them.

Mr. Kallinger stated that the greatest value that this body can give the Legislature is to guide and give them recommendations based on spending. If this body were in existence 3 years ago, we could go to the Legislature now, despite the budget and target the money where it makes the most difference in a child's life. He opined that the State is not targeting where the money should be spent and he believes in the future when we develop what we are working on, we will be of value to the Legislature and they will come to us.

Mr. Chairman accepted the offer of Mr. Lawrence to draft a statement for consideration by the Cabinet; the proposed statement will be sent to Sharon Read in accordance with the Sunshine Laws.

Miss Ausley thanked everyone and stated that it is vital to have these outside voices.

Dr. Schaechter suggested that Mr. Lawrence attempt to compose his letter for use in the annual report which is due February 2, 2009.

Monesia Brown requested permission to speak from the Chairman; Miss Brown announced that after ten years, she has decided to return to the private sector for personal reasons but will continue to serve the Governor in a difference capacity. The Chairman thanked her for her service to the state.

Next on the agenda were the presentations as follows:

1. Kathleen C. Rose, RN, MHA, NCSN, President, Florida Association of School Nurses
2. Mary Lewis, Our Mothers Home
3. Barbara F. Foster, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Child Advocate, Florida's Plan for Prevention and permanency
4. Matthew Straeb, President, Heart Gallery of America
5. Ranch Alumni, Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch Update

There was one public comment from Mrs. Kathy Drane and her son Tim.

There being no further business to come before the Cabinet, the meeting adjourned 3:25 pm CDT