

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008  
MEETING MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA - PENSACOLA**

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](mailto:sharon.read@eog.myflorida.com) for instructions on obtaining a DVD of the proceedings.

**Children and Youth Cabinet Members in attendance:**

- Jim Kallinger, Florida's Chief Child Advocate, Acting Chairman
- Executive Director James DeBeaugrine, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Representative Loranne Ausley, Designee of Speaker Marco Rubio, Florida House of Representatives
- State Surgeon General Ana Viamonte Ros, Department of Health
- Dennis Moore, Interim Statewide Director of the Guardian Ad Litem Office
- Donna Gay Lancaster, Executive Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Children's Services of Pinellas County
- Maureen S. Dinnen, Vice Chair, Broward County School Board, Designee of Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink
- Judy Schaechter, physician and associate professor at the University of Miami, Mailman Center for Child Development; Director of Injury Free Kids of Miami

**Children and Youth Cabinet Members attending by telephone**

- Secretary Frank Peterman, Department of Juvenile Justice
- South Florida Deputy Attorney General Cynthia Guerra
- Director Monesia Brown, Agency for Workforce Innovation (*Staff present* □ *Stacy Howard and John Hughes*)
- Dick Batchelor, President of Dick Batchelor Management Group

**Children and Youth Cabinet Members unable to attend:**

- Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp
- Justice Fred Lewis, Florida Supreme Court
- Senator Nan Rich, Designee of Senate President Ken Pruitt, Florida Senate
- Secretary Holly Benson, Agency for Health Care Administration (*Staff present* □ *Michelle Tallent*)
- Commissioner Eric Smith, Department of Education (*Staff present* □ *Shan Goff*)
- Interim Secretary George Sheldon, Department of Children and Families
- Antonia Crawford, Chairman of the Early Learning Coalition
- David Lawrence Jr., President of the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation in Miami and □ University Scholar for Early Childhood Development and Readiness □ at the University of Florida

**Proceedings**

The Cabinet Meeting was called to order at 12:34 pm CDT by Jim Kallinger, Chief Child Advocate, and Acting Chairman who announced the Lieutenant Governor could not be at the meeting.

After roll call was taken by Jennifer Diaz, Mr. Kallinger declared that there was NOT a quorum present and that all action requiring a vote would be tabled. Mr. Kallinger personally welcomed the members and audience, laying out the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Kallinger requested that Dr. Chula King, UWF Provost, approach the podium; Dr. King gave a warm heartfelt welcome to the Cabinet. Mr. Kallinger also welcomed and confirmed the Governor's appointment of Jim DeBeaugrine as Executive Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Director DeBeaugrine recognized APD staff in the audience.

Under **Old Business**, as there was not a quorum present to approve last meeting's minutes, Mr. Kallinger instructed Staff to make any grammatical corrections and to post the July 14, 2008 minutes to the website subject to confirmation at the January 2009 meeting.

Next on the agenda were committee reports: Mr. Kallinger advised that there were no work group presentations, however, he directed all to the two reports submitted and distributed from the Children's Summit Workgroup dated September 23, 2008 and made a part of this record. Mr. Kallinger stated that the frame work being developed by this group covers critical risk factors for children and that when the frame work is complete, the Summit Group will align with the work of the Budget Committee chaired by Gay Lancaster, possibly next year. Mr. Kallinger stated that he was of the opinion that at that point, 80 percent of the Cabinet's goals would be accomplished. Mr. Kallinger thanked the Summit Workgroup for all their good work. Mr. Kallinger gave a brief overview on the statutorily required duties and responsibilities that the Cabinet has begin work on.

Dr. Judy Schaechter stated that she realized progress had been made but is less satisfied with the state of the progress; that the Cabinet talks about issues but no one is charged with the responsibility and there is no definite timeframe on a deadline. Mr. Kallinger assured Dr. Schaechter that our committees and workgroup are charged with our statutory and strategic plan obligations and that good and timely work being done, and that his estimate of percentage and timeframe were just that, estimates.

Moving on to committee reports, Dick Batchelor, Chairman of Committee #3, Commissions, Councils and Task Forces Reports, commented on his written report, which is made a part of this record. Dr. Schaechter appreciated his report and made a comment regarding the National Children's Study update and how six universities are working together to study 4000 Florida children over 25 years from pre-conception to 25 years of age. The report from the National Autism Task Force entitled "Autism Speaks" may be a good resource to the committee. Director DeBeaugrine will relay the study information to the Task Force. Dick Batchelor was appointed the liaison to the study; he will write a letter and correspond with the National Children's Study on what a great job was done.

Gay Lancaster, Chairperson of the State Budget Committee was called upon by Mr. Kallinger to give her status report. Ms. Lancaster stated that a number of activities had taken place to date but that progress has been slow. The spreadsheet work that had been prepared to date was distributed to the Cabinet. Ms. Lancaster profusely thanked all her staff for working on this project and being such good public servants on a project that will surely serve as a model when complete. Ms. Lancaster stated that part of the reason progress is so slow is that there is not a lot of common ground between the agencies, and that each agency's categories are not similar - there is a variance of nomenclature. She feels that we are making below par investments and we need to produce a budget that a lay person can understand, which includes what we are spending.

Ms. Lancaster stated that she had obtained a report from the Finance Project and Forum for Youth Investment and requested that Mrs. Diaz distributes copies of the report to all the Cabinet Members. Her staff has researched a number of models and feels that the Oregon model is most comprehensive as it speaks to outcomes.

Ms. Lancaster is of the opinion that unless we bring in an independent expert who can decipher all the figures that we have gathered and are gathering, we potentially can come to a standstill. She suggests we look for a funding source to bring in a group of experts who have done this in other states to assist the committee.

Representative Ausley thanked Ms. Lancaster for accepting the position of committee chair and asked if there was anyway the Cabinet could assist with her efforts including possible legislation. Again, Ms. Lancaster repeated the need for an expert to go through the spreadsheets given the current difficult budget structure, in order to address clear and accessible categories; for instances: are we providing enough day care, pre school programs, medical care, etc.?

Ms. Lancaster raised the issue of an Estimating Conference at which point Director DeBeaugrine stated that he believes a child welfare estimating conference is already out there.. Mr. Kallinger inquired if this is a formal or informal Estimating Conference? Director DeBeaugrine stated formal in that it may be in statute but that something that is already existing could informally come together.

Ms. Lancaster interjected that departments are competing for resources and it boils down to competition.

Ms. Maureen Dinnen stated that the need to explain to the public is of prime concern; can't be using different languages; we are learning about each other which is difficult, but fruitful. Ms. Dinnen also mentioned that the Oregon model made no mention of education and Ms. Lancaster noted the omission and stated that it is an example of the way results are determined. Most of Florida's dollars are spent in education. Ms. Dinnen stated that it was interesting that DOE was working with other companies, not class room oriented. Ms. Lancaster stated that we have a base willingness to be straight forward, we just don't have the structure; some agencies count court cases not children; it is and will be impossible to be exact.

Mr. Kallinger emphasized the importance of a unified nomenclature and that the possibility of a non-binding Estimating Conference might work; he encouraged Ms. Lancaster to request help as needed for her important committee, which is a big piece of the puzzle.

Ms. Lancaster and Dr. Schaechter joined to inform the Cabinet about the Renewal of the Miami-Dade Children's Trust which passed by 86%, mandating the importance of care of our children. Mr. Kallinger stated that the Governor had sent a letter to the Children's Trust congratulating them on the passage.

Mr. Kallinger announced that Toni Crawford, Chairperson for Committee #1 - Interagency Agreements could not be with us but had assured him that her committee was diligently working on all the goals before them. Miss Crawford requested that Mr. Kallinger thank all the agency leaders and staff who have so freely given of their time and expertise. That the report based on the Cost Benefit Analysis for the Data and Information Sharing System responses of all the agencies will be compiled, summarized and distributed in the near future.

Mr. Kallinger then requested Ms. Chris Blakeslee, from Florida's Supreme Court, Office of State Courts Administration, to approach the podium. Ms. Blakeslee gave a synopsis of the last couple of months; that she had met with individuals from various agencies first and then with staff; the concerns regarding data exchange, automation of data entry without error, security concerns pursuant to roles and profiles per statute or federal law, were addressed, although there will be more development due to HIPAA and FERPA statutes. Also, that she had a group meeting with all agencies regarding the cost benefit analysis concern and that each agency produced a catalog with the assistance of the template that DOH developed; contracts have been drafted and sent to all agencies for review and to date three (3) had been returned. She urged the department heads to address the review and execution of the contracts. In the future, Ms. Blakeslee advises that JAD Sessions will be scheduled to continue educating and researching.

Mr. Kallinger thanked Ms. Blakeslee profusely as well as Justice Lewis; that the Cabinet will ever be so thankful for their generosity. Dr. Schaechter wanted to acknowledge Ted Granger and Jennifer Diaz and John Hughes for all their excellent work on this project. She suggests that it will be important for Committees #1 and 2 to come together to look at common elements. Mr. Kallinger thanked Dr. Schaechter for her voice.

Ms. Lancaster asked if the interagency agreements were completed.

Ms. Blakeslee said they are working on it with the agencies and will continue to develop when the JAD sessions get started. First step is the contracts with OSCA and second step is the information agreements. Mr. Kallinger thanked Ms. Blakeslee.

Representative Ausley raised the issue of the location, times and duration of future Cabinet meetings. Mr. Kallinger stated that the subject would be addressed after the break.

The Cabinet broke and then reconvened at 1:50 pm CDT.

Mr. Kallinger reconvened the meeting and reminded the Cabinet that we are always open to having members speak about issues and concerns that are relevant to the Cabinet and to just let the staff know in advance.

**On to New Business.** Mr. Kallinger announced that as with this meeting, all future meetings will begin at 12:30 pm and were estimated to end by 4:30 pm in order to allow for travel time and to respect everyone's schedule; this will not effect production during a meeting as the time format can always be adjusted as necessary. Further, that the November 18, 2009 meeting in Miami has been cancelled due to the number of members that need to be in attendance at the Legislative Organizational Session that day. The next Cabinet Meeting will be held on January 13, 2009 in Tallahassee and the March 31 also in Tallahassee. Also because the traveling meetings are set by statute, and approximately 15 of the 20 members are in Tallahassee, we are considering holding two meetings back to back in Tallahassee and then the next meeting traveling to another city and then back for two more meetings in Tallahassee. The Cabinet will hold the Miami meeting on May 19, 2009.

Representative Ausley stated that she felt that it was a good idea and that perhaps we would have better attendance in January and March due to the legislature. Dr. Schaechter stated that she was concerned about making recommendations on proposed legislation without having a meeting in November as it pertains to funding, that it is important that recommendations are made before the legislature meets. Mr. Kallinger stated that it is not in our pervue to review and analyze proposed legislation, that we need to finish our statutory and strategic plan charges, specifically our budget and framework, which will then give us a foundation or approach that can be presented to policy makers. Dr. Schaechter stated that it sounds like it will take another couple years before the process of all information is in for the budget and that she suggests making certain recommendations or statements on what the children's needs are now. Mr. Kallinger reiterated that we should go through our exercises first; it might not be wise to randomly approach the legislature without a unified message and all the information necessary.

Representative Ausley suggested that it is possible to take both approaches: submit something to the legislature this session coming up and then when committee and workgroup work is complete, the Cabinet can use that information then. It is important for the record to support recommendations. Mr. Kallinger stated that we may be ready to submit on some funding issues.

Ms. Dinnen suggested that we put together ideas and have a specific telephone conference regarding our priorities, i.e., 1) money for the dedicated Cabinet staff and 2) A Children and Youth Cabinet Estimating Conference. Mr. Kallinger stated that was a good idea and that everyone should take a minute to think this over and we would take the top 3 priorities for this session that we feel the need for the legislation to address. Keep in mind; we must publicly notice any meeting that concerns the Cabinet.

Ms. Lancaster felt that the priorities are: 1) make a request for an Estimating Conference and 2) make request for adequate staffing for the CYC, because without staff specifically designated, it shows a lack of support for the CYC. Representative Ausley said that we should also consider a unified budget with common nomenclature. Surgeon General Ros stated "let's get it done!"

Mr. DeBeaugrine stated that his IT Department is extremely limited in funds with regard to the proposed Cabinet Data and Information Sharing System and also suggested that with reference to the Estimating Conference, before Cabinet goes to the legislature, the Cabinet may have to tell them what it is the Cabinet wants to forecast. Mr. Kallinger stated that he would have the Staff pull up the meeting minutes to revisit our prior discussions on the Estimating Conference proposal before we make that a recommended priority.

Dr. Schaechter stated that it is very important that the Cabinet make a recommendation that children's programs funding do not get cut. Mr. Kallinger reinforced his statement that he looks forward to having the budget and framework in place that will help legislation to prioritize and that these documents will be the Cabinet's tool to go a long way in helping children. Ms. Dinnen questioned what can presently be done and do we have the staff to do it with? She understands that we need data but unprecedented time with the crisis we have out there gives rise to the question. Mr. Kallinger assured the Cabinet that although we have done a lot, we have a long way to go; also stating it is unfortunate that we did not have the Cabinet three years ago which would have prepared us for the situation we are in..

Representative Ausley stated that it was possible that KidCare could help out; remember the goal, insuring as many children in the state; the Cabinet could get behind that. Surgeon General Ros stated that all agencies have zero to cut. Don't lay someone off to get things done. GAL Director Moore stated that he has the same IT funding problem as Mr. DeBeaugrine. AWI Director Brown feels that we are all on the same page. Secretary Peterman fully supports the suggestions made and stated that we need a unified effort to go forward. Ms. Guerra echoes everyone else and emphasized we need money. Mr. Kallinger stated that staff will compile a list of legislative priorities and will get back to all the members with the list and potential conference call meeting information.

Next on the agenda were the presentations as follows:

1. Florida Healthy Kids Corporation update on Florida KidCare by Rich Robleto, Executive Director and Amber Floyd
2. Sweat Monkey Presentation by Rick Everitt, Program Coordinator of the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium, Scott Fore, Tree Top Software Company and Dr. Marie Dinon.

There were no public questions or comments.

Mr. Kallinger informed the Cabinet and audience that the Governor's Explore Adoption Campaign has launched and has been doing great things over the summer and encouraged members to check out [www.adoptflorida.org](http://www.adoptflorida.org). There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned 3:25 pm CDT

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Staff - Send copies of the Adding it Up Guide and Workbook to all Cabinet Members.**
- 2. Follow up on possibility of telephone conference call for Cabinet Members in lieu of November meeting to talk about three legislative priorities:**
  - a. make a request for an Estimating Conference pending review of previous deliberations
  - b. make request for adequate staffing for the CYC, because without staff specifically designated, it shows a lack of support for the CYC
  - c. make request for a unified budget with common nomenclature
  - d. make request for Data and Information Sharing System funding requests for APD and GAL
  - e. make request to stop cutting funding for children's services
- 3. Search prior minutes for notations on Estimating Conferences.**
- 4. Place 7/14/08 minutes on January agenda for motion; no quorum for this meeting for approval.**