

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET AGENDA*
OCTOBER 30, 2007
MEETING MINUTES
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
TAMPA, FL

Children and Youth Cabinet Members

In attendance:

- Secretary Bob Butterworth, Department of Children and Families
- Secretary Andrew Agwunobi, Agency for Health Care Administration
- Director Jane Johnson, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Director Monesia Brown, Agency for Workforce Innovation
- State Surgeon General Ana Viamonte Ros, Department of Health
- Commissioner Jeanine Blomberg, Department of Education
- Jim Kallinger, Florida's Chief Child Advocate
- Judy Schaechter, physician and associate professor at the University of Miami, Mailman Center for Child Development; Director of Injury Free Kids of Miami
- 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
- Donna Gay Lancaster, Executive Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Children's Services of Pinellas County
- Antonia Crawford, Chairman of the Early Learning Coalition
- Dick Batchelor, President of Dick Batchelor Management Group
- Senator Nan Rich
- South Florida Deputy Attorney General Cynthia Guerra
- Chief Justice Fred Lewis, Florida Supreme Court

On conference call:

- Representative Lorraine Ausley, Designee of Speaker Marco Rubio, Florida House of Representatives
- Angela Orkin, Statewide Director of the Guardian Ad Litem Office

Not in attendance:

- Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp
- Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink
- Secretary Walt McNeil, Department of Juvenile Justice

Proceedings

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Cabinet member Jim Kallinger, Acting Chairman. Mr. Kallinger declared that there was quorum. Mr. Kallinger welcomed members and audience and thanked the University of South Florida for hosting the meeting. Mr. Kallinger reviewed the items on the agenda.

Mr. Kallinger brought up the minutes of the October 1 meeting and asked if there was any discussion or changes. Secretary Agwunobi added a bullet point to Dr. Schaechter's comment on page four of the minutes that dental care should be primary care, not specialty care. Director Johnson made a motion to approve. Secretary Viamonte Ros seconds. A verbal vote was taken and motion carried.

Mr. Kallinger began the Vision discussion by asking members to review the proposed vision and review the Draft Strategic Plan comments and to keep in mind the statute direction. Mr. Kallinger opened up the floor for discussion. Discussion and comments were as follows:

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- Exchange the word "proper," for "appropriate" or something less restrictive than proper.

MS. LANCASTER:

- Different and a bit broader take on it.
- a vision should be very simple in nature and broad
- Every child in Florida should have an opportunity to grow up safe, healthy and ready for adulthood.
- I think the simpler it is, the clearer it is.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- Want to have well-educated.
- Support first behind what Gay offered.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Statute, Section 2(a).
- order for the state to achieve the visions and plans necessary to ensure that this state is the first place families think of when asked where you want to raise a child.
- Is that a possibility as far as being a very simple and very visionary vision?

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- We're going to have a vision, a target that we want to achieve, say, in like three to five years from now -- that we want every child to have access to healthcare.
- Whereas, our mission could be this cabinet works to ensure that all Florida's children and families, et cetera, are empowered with the proper communities, courts, et cetera
- It seems that this is not concrete enough to serve as a target for a strategic planning.

MR. KALLINGER:

- A vision is, you know, really where do we want to be twenty years from now? What do we want to see in the State of Florida?
- I think we ought to have a very broad and enlightened vision.
- I think our mission statement would reflect some of our strategies towards getting to that vision, but I think we need to have goals that are measurable because then with the goals, we can see if we are getting closer to our vision, if we're accomplishing our mission.
- As we reach that, we establish new goals, and so maybe when we get into can the strategic plan, we have a vision and a mission that with the plan we start setting some -- some goals.

MS. CRAWFORD:

- Agree with what Gay said in that her comments were broad
- I think it needs to be broad, and the mission needs to talk about what we're going to do.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- Well, what I would change, with Gay's permission, is every child in Florida has the opportunity to grow up safe, comma, healthy, comma, educated and it then says and ready for adulthood.
- Another possibility and I certainly would back that -- is -- Begins with to grow up safe, comma, healthy, comma, educated and ready for adulthood.
- Another way to do it is -- is to be ready to contribute as an adult only because what we are trying to do ultimately is to get people to contribute as adults.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- Someone with a disability may not fully be contributing members of the communities, and then they can do volunteer work or non-employees.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Do you think we need to have any focus on families at all?

MS. LANCASTER:

- Since the cabinet is for children and youth, I think our statement should be child centered.

MS. LANCASTER:

- At the end, instead of ready for adulthood, ready to be productive adults or self-sufficient.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- Self-sufficient, I think.

SENATOR RICH:

- I just think maybe it should be productive member of the community.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- Every child in Florida has the opportunity to grow up safe, comma, healthy, comma, educated and well-prepared for adulthood.

MR. KALLINGER:

- I like Senator Rich's community.

MS. ORKIN:

- One of things that we talk about within the guardian ad litem program is making sure that children have the opportunity to reach their own unique potential because each child comes in differently, and, you know, what their education looks like or what their career path looks like is unique to them.

MS. LANCASTER:

- It could come at the end, if you don't mind a little tinkering, say that every child in Florida has the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, well-educated and prepared to meet their full potential, either one.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- You can't use their. You're going to have to use his or her if you phrase it this way.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- Can we change it to all children?

MS. LANCASTER:

- All children in the state?

MR. LAWRENCE:

- In Florida have the opportunity to go up safe, comma, healthy, comma, educated, and then what?

SENATOR RICH:

- And prepared to reach their full potential. We can say as contributing members of the community or stop after.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- I'd like to get you're preparing children to be civic participants

MS. LANCASTER:

- All children in Florida have the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to reach their full potential.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Ms. Johnson, knowing the folks that you work with, would unique be better than full?

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- They're not mutually exclusive, but you could use full or unique potential.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Well, we're right here with our vision.
- We could go ahead and approve our vision and then get into a mission statement, or do we want to get into a mission statement, see how that goes because it may then take us back to our vision for some tweaking?

MS. LANCASTER:

- I'd love to see us just talk about what we ought to be doing and rather than confining that initially, just to make sure that after we -- take a look at the statute, take a look at what might be required to make this vision occur.
- I think it's important that we just talk about what we ought to do and what needs to happen for children in Florida.

COMMISSIONER BLOMBERG:

- We need to talk a little bit about that. I have seen this collaboration of services, and so to me moving on would be how are we going to do that and how are we going to identify the different kinds of histories and identify the different responsibilities and collaborate.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Members, let the record show Mr. Batchelor has arrived. I
- If you look at the statute, Ms. Lancaster, I agree with what you're saying, that we do need to kind of come up with a plan, and, you know, where does the rubber hit the road?
- But, like Ms. Blomberg said, I think our key mission is really to start working together and collaborating and breaking down what we call the silos.
- And if you look in Statute 2(b), I'm wondering if, again, maybe our mission statement is in that paragraph.

MS. LANCASTER:

- I certainly think that both 2(b) and 3 (a) together speak to mission.

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- We could actually achieve that goal by creating a mission statement now and then revisiting it somewhere before the end of the process, and I'm sure we'll find that we want to expand it a little bit or may even, you know, trim it back a little bit and see.

MR. KALLINGER:

- I just would like to remind the members that whatever we do today it is not static; it's going to evolve over time, and we can change it at anytime.

SENATOR RICH:

- In agreement with Gay about this.
- I think Rep Ausley would agree with me on this that the whole idea is coordination and collaboration of the agencies and organizations that touch the lives of children.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- Just to put on the table and using the legislation's wording, ensure that the agencies -- that agencies programming and policies are task aligned and coordinated to best task aligned and coordinated -- and then from the statute -- to assure that plan, managed -- starting with to ensure that agencies' programming and policies are tasked aligned and coordinated so that services for children and youth

are planned, managed and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the children's self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and quality of life.

SURGEON GENERAL VIAMONTE ROS:

- The way I read 3(a) it really encompasses everything.

MS. LANCASTER:

- I like the idea that it could be fluid and that we can tinker with it as we go along, but I certainly believe that the observation of this embodies the role and mission of this cabinet. It's very clear.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- I would simply say to ensure the public policy that the state relating to children and youth promotes interdepartmental collaboration of program implementation so that services designed for children and youth are planned, et cetera, et cetera.

Mr. Kallinger asks if there is a motion to accept proposes vision statement and proposed mission statement to embody Florida Statute 402.56 Section 3a. Dr. Schaechter makes a motion to accept, Senator Rich seconds. A verbal vote is taken and motion carries.

Mr. Kallinger introduces Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan, Ed.D.(Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy, Co-Director of the National Center for Children and Families, and Associate Dean for Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University) to talk to the Cabinet about Strategic Planning and Florida's Policy Matters Project. (Dr. Kagan's presentation can be found on the web page: http://www.flgov.com/youth_cabinet)

Mr. Kallinger begins the Strategic Plan Discussion. The plan components are outlined in statute. The plan is due December 31, 2007. This is not a long range plan, not rigid. It is flexible and to be fleshed out as we move forward. It is a road map that will lead the cabinet on a journey. Refer to statute as a guideline. Refer to plan draft – this document is all input thus far. Narrow this document down to a framework. This is a living document. An idea is to have a sub-committee work on the plan. Let's remember the sunshine laws. The floor is open for discussion. Discussion and comments are as follows:

SURGEON GENERAL VIAMONTE ROS:

- For the Governor's Counsel on Physical Fitness, we subdivided into a health and nutrition, into education committees and then active living and then we'd come back but have people that are -- have some sort of expertise in those areas lead those discussions in those subcommittees and then come back with recommendations.

MR. KALLINGER:

- We are required under the statute to have a strategic plan no later than December 31st.
- I think a drastic measure would be to do a glitch bill and try to extend that by a year, so maybe we could do that.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- It seems to me one of the first things we should do, though, is look at the strategies and make sure we agree on those and it seems like it'd be a worthwhile exercise for the full group to agree that we agree that these are the four areas strategic areas that we want to focus and then maybe -- divide into the subgroups.

DIRECTOR BROWN:

- Agree with Jane's recommendation as to the extent that we can all agree on strategies.
- Perhaps we can frame something that's based on each one of those strategies and then divide and conquer in each committee our action steps based on those strategies.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- Is there any way that we could get those plans and reports by each agency and organization?
- Of all these recommendations, our secretary, agency has agreed that there are 20, 35, 45 -- I don't care the number here -- are the most important ones that would meet the goals of the cabinet, but similar work has been done, and the work products are there, rather than us trying to consume that?
- Appropriate to have a subcommittee and have a presentation of those groups, and then we would have identified the supporting recommendations.

MR. KALLINGER:

- I think tomorrow in the capitol the departments are presenting their long-range plans.

SENATOR RICH:

- I just have one concern about that, and that is that those were created in their own silos, and the goal that we have just agreed to is coordination.
- I just want to make sure just to throw that out there that whatever format we come up with that we make sure that we're going to be getting people out of those independent silos, and getting ideas to come together where we can get some coordination and collaboration.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- I don't mean having them go off and develop their own. I'm talking about bring the agency heads together and collaborate outside the silos and then, you know, let them come to us with their best practices, for lack of a better word, and then we can look at it and be sure that they're not put back in the silos.

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- The agency heads can share that information in the context of a committee, the subcommittee, so if there's a health subcommittee, then myself and Ana, we can be other there, so we'll be in there.
- We bring our stuff and kind of synthesize it together and come up with some kind of product that we present to the board -- to the cabinet for review.
- The strategies would come out of the committees.
- The recommended strategies would come out of the committees with -- and if they're approved by the whole cabinet, then we would have the -- maybe simultaneously talk about the action steps that are necessary to achieve those strategies.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- Yeah. It's just that there already are strategies that have been written, so what we basically need to know is if we agree with those strategies, I think.

MR. KALLINGER:

- This document is all our input and, combined with what's in the statute, and staff put it together as strategies. Action steps, goals, I think, that's what we measure.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- I absolutely think under sub-visions, goals, these are the goals for the children, and then we can't really develop strategies until we agree on what the goals are, and the goals will fall out from that vision, but we need to make that crystal clear and agree on that.
- The other point I make is before we rush into subcommittees that are area based, I'm afraid that will also silo us and that if we need subcommittees, that we should do that with the age banding that was brought up before because health and early childhood education and everything else is going to cut across that, that the age banding might be a good way to go.
- To talk to the staff's goals for a minute, Dr. Kagan, laid out two approaches that we could take, and one was, of course, to paraphrase, that we could look at what we already have. We should absolutely make

use of what we have and all the work that the agencies did and know what's in there, but I do think that we should start with what do we want? What can we be? Rather than -- because I'm assuming here that many of the agencies will start with where they are and how to make it better.

- Let's agree on our goals and what we want first.

MS. LANCASTER:

- I do want to add my support to the age banding concept.
- I think it does help us take an approach that takes us way outside the silo concept and makes us look at services across that age band, whether they're health, whether they're abuse responses, whether they're educational.

CHIEF JUSTICE LEWIS:

- As an ex-officio member and one that represents the branch in Florida that tends to understand and help the pain of those who have fallen through all of the other problems, it seems to me is that we need to wait just a moment before developing strategies until there can be a sharing of further information so that we can understand a little more deeply, that we can understand the parameters, we can understand the dynamics of many of these things that all of us may see individually at times.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Again, I'm going to refer to statute. Our duties and responsibilities, if you go down that list from A through I, it does talk about identifying existing and potential funding streams and resources for children's services.
- My question to the group here is do we take these in order or do we group them together and try to -- the way this was laid out, which maybe Senator Rich might have some comments on this because she was very involved in developing all this, but these are our duties and responsibilities.
- How do we approach all this with a deadline of December 31st for a strategic plan?

SENATOR RICH:

- Like I said, I wish we had made a different date.
- It's a moving target, something that will be flexible and change, depending on, you know, what directions we decide to go.
- I think we can kind of do the broad framework and then come back, and I'm going to continue to work on it over the next year
- I think one of the key elements of what this cabinet needs to do is to look at how the resources are spent, look at those budgets, and if we're going to be coordinating and doing things more efficiently, obviously somehow it ties back to the dollars, and it's not always about new dollars but, you know, how you spend the existing ones.
- You know, we had the Children's Summit in Orlando. One of the ideas that came out kind of at the last minute was to divide according to age and I really support this age banding and looking at, you know, our children in a different way than in the silos of child welfare or, you know, ECE, but to make everybody familiar with -- with children's issues across the board..

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- I think that to start developing bullet points just for the sake of getting it done by December 31st is misguided, but there are four things in here.
- Since they come straight out of the statute, if we could agree that those were the four global areas we want to focus on under these four things, then we could develop strategies or whatever it is that you do, but these are more principles or general directions that we want to move in, but I just thought it'd be helpful as a group if we can get a consensus on this as a starting point since the staff has already done this work.

MS. LANCASTER:

- One thing I do want to support is the Chief Justice's comments about finances and money, and to that end I sent three recommendations for consideration.
- All of them will not be highly popular probably with the legislature, but they are to propose the reenactment of the Child Welfare Estimating Conference, the reenactment of the Juvenile Justice Estimating Conference and new legislation that would create the Children's Cabinet on Youth and Census Estimating Conference to get at the dollars.
- It may not be the right approach, but something needs to categorize those expenditures, and I certainly concur with the Chief Justice that you have to follow the money in some respects. That's one approach to it.
- I don't want us to get too frayed around the edges, but it is possible to divide up the work and look at some of these things, and certainly, we need to spend time hearing from those task forces that have been sitting for the last six months or four months or five months and take their recommendations and findings into account.
- As I see it, in the next six months or our near term strategic plan, if you will, is very much of an exploratory effort. We can set goals around that exploration, and I think for me that would suffice because what good is our work if we don't find out the necessary information first and then draw conclusions and then come up with a final plan or a fluid final plan for each year? And we really ought to be reexamining all the time as new research comes out and new reports are made available.
- I certainly concur with Mr. Batchelor, who made the observation that there are very fine pieces of work on the table, and we should never ignore those efforts because people have spent huge amounts of time on them.
- So going forward the agenda that I see for this body is very much exploratory, and perhaps we could frame some goals around looking at those various things, the dollars, the research, the recommendations, and the task force reports.
- To me that's a huge effort over the next several months, and I just wonder, Senator, if that would not satisfy the requirements in the statute.

SENATOR RICH:

- I feel totally comfortable that that would satisfy the intent.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- I also don't want us to kill ourselves making a perfect plan because a perfect plan won't come into being, and I'm going to be satisfied sometime hence if I can look up and say, these several things happened because of this.
- I think there are vast forces that are going to resist any changes that we do.
- The other thing I'd say is that I thought Dr. Kagan's point as well on the importance of age banding was crucial.
- So I'd like us to sort of figure out and go slow enough to do it, two, three, four things that we'd really love to do that we could actually make happen, even with the forces of rain against it.

MR. KALLINGER:

- I think if we do a situational analysis of what's out there, I think there's enough knowledge and insight around this table here that we could identify, like Mr. Lawrence said, maybe the top three or four issues that we really ought to dive into.
- To have the biggest impact and as quickly as possible, I think we need to pick, as I say, pick the low hanging fruit.
- So maybe we can identify some of these issues and cull us around them and then try to put them in under one of these strategies or develop a new strategy based on that goal.

COMMISSIONER BLOMBERG:

- I think we'd like to think of these strategies as the guiding principles.
- We have to break up into the smaller group so that we have our strategic plan, and we would clearly need to look at that strategic plan, identify our priorities working with a group.

- So I think the next step in terms of breaking up into the groups, whether it's education, healthcare, have individual groups do some work together across the agencies.

MS. ORKIN:

- As we are kind of trying to focus our efforts, I just want to make sure that we keep in mind the children who are most negatively impacted by the lack of coordination.

SENATOR RICH:

- I just had a question to ask all the agency heads that are here because when Dr. Blomberg talks, you know, about going back and looking at your strategic plan, when you look at the first strategy there, look to your interagency collaboration, how many of you actually have that in your strategic plan, interagency collaboration? Does everybody have that to work with? I mean

COMMISSIONER BLOMBERG:

- What we have is in the plan.

SENATOR RICH:

- But is it being really addressed? I think many of us think that that's really one of the number one things.

COMMISSIONER BLOMBERG:

- Just to respond to that, I believe that if you asked the different agency heads, that we would all say yes, we do have interagency collaboration, but I think as we talk about some of the issues, especially with some of the DJJ issues, that we're trying -- and we realize that it's not good enough. That's all, and that's the bottom line, and that's what we have to work on through this process.

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- I think that's a great question that we need to ask around specific projects that we decide to take.
- If we say there's low hanging fruit, that it's going to be a ten-year process, and in the first year we want to get -- the first six months we want to do X, Y, Z, the big question is going to be how good is the collaboration around those particular areas.
- How can we make it a case where it doesn't matter what the issue is, we can collaborate on it because it's hardwired?

SURGEON GENERAL VIAMONTE ROS:

- I was going to echo.
- It would be very, very important and useful to have known before we stood up and presented what our legislative budget requests are what other agencies' LBRs and what their priorities are and what their strategic goals are going forward and what their funding goals are.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- When we look at the strategies that are laid out here, part of my difficulty with calling them or renaming them goals is that I have a hard time measuring them or if someone looked at it later and tried to see if we accomplished our goals that how do we show that?
- If instead our goals started with the second part of that clause and were more about providing families with one-stop shopping, with no wrong door, if the tone of our goals is in that way, where we start with the child when we start with a family, I think we'll get closer to what we want to do.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Goals need to be measurable so we can note the progress.
- Can we even identify our audience, the audience that we serve or that we should be serving -- our service that we offer or should be offering and the resources that we have or that we need?

- And then based on that we could probably start identifying obstacles and opportunities, and then based on that we can set goals, and once we have our goals, then we can look at the strategy to achieving those goals.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- I would suggest that if the agency heads did convene, took all these reports that have been done, find some recommendations, cross-reference those, had some conversation and came back with what I would call a working document, a living document, that we could change, I think we would have something in front of us with which to work off.
- I think at another event in the future at a testimony invite, we would invite them to testify to a more formalized integrated system because one of the problems that we have.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- It seems like we've gotten off on the agencies.
- I think one of the things would be improving interagency collaboration so that people wouldn't have to go to seventeen different places to find information.
- So is our goal -- if we're looking at the solutions through the eyes of the agencies, we're neglecting all the private sector and, you know, the nongovernmental resources that are out there that I think we also want to help families have access to.
- There's such a rich array of resources at the local and county level that the agency -- state agencies aren't going to be able to tell you about, but we can certainly tell you what we do, but I think there's a whole lot of people in this room right now that will probably tell you about all kinds of things that are out there for families that receive state and federal and local funding that should be part of what we are going to collaborate when they're trying to access, and then these collaborations shouldn't just be state agencies.

MS. LANCASTER:

- I have two proposals for the near term.
- One is to analyze the funding stream as a total state spending on behalf of children in order to identify the following, how state agencies fund children's programs, the gaps and overlaps in the funding between the agencies that create conflict, redundant processes or confusion -- one example is the VPK - - to look at revenue maximums based on efforts that are successful as well as areas for improvement, i.e. Kid Care, to determine whether waivers achieve their intended purpose -- do they give us flexibility, and do those dollars coming into the system really add value -- and whether we're using those waivers to their maximum and to examine the opportunities for blended funding. That would be in terms of researching what other states have done for blended funding.
- The other action I would propose is that the task force or that we, the cabinet, review reports of the task forces and commissions over the last year to focus on the parts of the system that are in crisis and build a tiered framework for action to address those crises.
- Those are two things that I'd like to see us do.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- I think the data is actually twofold because I think that we're talking about a strategic plan that describes that.
- And in terms of the budgeting, I just want to add, Gay, if you're willing, that we do a comparative analysis about prevention dollars and post dollars, front end versus the rear end, I think that would be important.

MS. LANCASTER:

- I would agree with that.

SENATOR RICH:

- I just wanted to make a follow-up comment to what Jane said, and I don't disagree that we need to look at all the programs that are out there, but if you look at the statute and what it says, the focus is to be on intergovernmental and the collaboration of any agency or department that touches the lives of children.
- And as far as the suggestion about the budget, I think it -- again, it goes right along where you look at 5(h) where it says develop a children-and-youth- based budget structure and nomenclature that includes all relevant departments, funding streams and programs.
- The budget shall facilitate improved coordination and efficiency, again, looking at our state dollars and how we spend our state dollars, and are we getting, you know, the best bang for the buck? Is it the best, you know, continuum of service?

MR. LAWRENCE:

- How could anybody be against where is the money? What I worry is we'll now be deeply in the sewer of the arcane world of government funding flows, and we won't know much.
- Go ahead and get it. I'll be all for it, but the question is once you get it, can it lead to any real change?
- What scares me is if six months from now we haven't done anything profound, this will absolutely wither away.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- One point I want to make is in previous years to offer the opportunity for department heads to get together and draft something,
- We can benefit from the work that they've done, go through a process, but I'm not suggesting that the agency heads individually come back to us and tell us what the priorities are.
- I'm suggesting that the agency heads, whoever they designated, get together, look at the data, come back with some what I would call measurable goals, and then let's have that conversation to do what David suggested, and that would be to identify three or four
- We've got to have a living document from which to work.

DIRECTOR BROWN:

- It seems to me that we really kind of outlined what we should do.
- We all have great ideas I think we can actually put together in a plan, and here's just what I think.
- I think we could decide today how we want to break up into age bands, and I think we can then have an opportunity, whether its subcommittees or the full cabinet, and put on the table what the issues are that relate to those age bands.
- I think what we're sorely lacking is the information.
- I think it's something we can do in a subcommittee if we wanted to make strides from a timing perspective, but then I think we take all of those issues that relate to that particular age group and pull all that information together and then also the strategic plans and come back together and say, Here's what we know about zero to five. This is where we are today. These are the issues. Here are some of the recommendations and then get that.
- I think we can do it in the form of subcommittees or in a larger group, but I think we just need a frame how we're going to move forward because I think we all agree that we can attack this from the age bands, and we can all break up and come to the meeting separate and apart before the next full cabinet meeting, but I think we're going to have to make some strides in between time if we really want to make the most of the time that we share together for the five or six hours each time we meet.

MS. CRAWFORD:

- I think that we made some strides today with our vision and mission, and I think we also need to leave here today with some defined goal of funding.
- I do think we have to know what's out there and how we can redirect that.

At 12:38 pm, the Lunch Break was called. Cabinet Members had the opportunity to hear from the Tampa Mayor's Youth Corps.

The meeting resumes at 1:40 pm with continuing discussion of the strategic plan.

Mr. Kallinger welcomes back cabinet members resumes the strategic plan discussion. He reminds members that presentations are scheduled to start at 2:15, so there is about half an hour to try to wrap things up. Mr. Kallinger begins the discussion with age banding and asking members to identify age bands.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- Prenatal to age five.

SENATOR RICH:

- We had come up with three that we had intended to use for the Children's Summit, and they were prenatal to age five, six to twelve and then thirteen to eighteen to be the kid's ages to end up with the integration out of foster care, so I just would throw those out as three -- you know, as a possibility for the three age groups.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Does that sound good, members? Any questions? Comments? Okay. So we have age bands prenatal to five, six to twelve and thirteen to
- eighteen, and, members, I think once we identify these age bands and we identify some goals, maybe three goals for each age band, then maybe we could designate some subcommittees for each age band to move forward. Yes?

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- I think I may have been the first one to bring it up to you about age bands, and I think we should have that in terms of the structure on our strategic plan.
- I want to put out there that it may make sense because all of our issues will cut across these age bands - - specific -- the specific -- I'm sorry.
- Issues as broad as health and education, et cetera, are going to cut across, which means that the subcommittees -- most all of us will be on a subcommittee of all these age bands, and that's fine if that's how it works out, but I also want to throw out there that this is not a huge cabinet in terms of numbers of people, and while we will probably have to have conference calls in between meetings, it may make more sense to keep it to everyone at this point. I'm not sure that subcommittees are necessarily the best way to get to where we're going, and I don't think that we can -- some of these age bands will have three achievable goals, even your low lying fruit, but in other areas I think we need to plant a seed and grow new trees, and those will cut across the age bands.
- So I don't want us to quite limit ourselves to just, you know, a few bullets in each area. I also would love to see in the last thirty minutes or so as you say -- we have to actually recap what we had at that first meeting.
- We went around and we said what are the major issues that we want to talk about, and themes came out of that.
- Many of those issues were brought up by a number of different people.
- It seems to me as much as we do want the agencies to come back with their strategic plan input as it interphases with the cabinet that we could also today agree on a living document that changes, and then that input will be taken at the next meeting, but we could agree on the three to four or six to ten areas that the cabinet needs to address.
- In global terms, I think we know what those are.

MR. KALLINGER:

- So your recommendation then would be to expand it beyond the age bands and identify maybe two or three goals for each age band today?

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- I don't want us to limit ourselves to just three bullets in each band.
- We can start there but to recognize that some things will cut across, and I think that today, yes, we should be able to say coming out what was voiced in the last meeting where we know we have to address things for our children.
- Let's say these four to six areas we're going to tackle.

MR. KALLINGER:

- In addition to the two or three goals is what you're saying?

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- They may well follow there. Some of them will be bigger than that.
- For example, if we wanted to say children have access to high quality early childhood education, that will easily fall in one of your age bands, but if we want to say access to medical homes and quality healthcare is assured, that will cut across all.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- I want to nuance that point because I think it's a very important point.
- Maybe the way to tackle it is to figure out what the several bullets are, at least very tentatively between each of them, then see what are the connections and the interface to the larger issues because actually the example that Judy uses, which is early childhood education, in theory is zero to five, but what's the interphase with first grade, second grade, third grade?
- But I think the way to tackle this is by getting the things sort of down on paper first and then say, well, what are the larger issues here and what are the connections here and what transcends any particular one?
- So you'll need -- if you want medical homes for children, you'll need some things that have a real emphasis in early childhood, for the sake of argument, but there are going to be transcending parts of that that speak to the other age bands, if you will.
- I think -- I mean, I think Judy's point's important and got to be thought about in this, but I think the first way to approach this is by approaching the three bands, find out what we've got underneath there and then see,
- Well, now what are we missing and what are these -- what of these are overarching issues and in which way.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- It seems to me that the age bands come after you establish the overarching goals, and then in developing your strategies, you strategize based on age bands.
- That's what we mean.
- The age bands are part of the solution, but before you can start coming up with the solution, we still haven't figured what our overarching goals are, I mean, sort of the what direction are we going in?
- And I think we're going in a medical direction, medical, healthcare, education, employment.
- I mean, I don't -- and safety -- and I'm not sure what those goals are, but once we establish those as we come up with strategies, we -- I think we commit it as a group, not in the tactical and traditional way, but some of these things if we tackle them by age bands, we can cross all those that we wouldn't know that until we get into the details underneath sort of the global goals.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Then why don't we go ahead and start identifying some of our goals or top two, three goals that we would have as a cabinet that we could begin pursuing strategies for.

MS. LANCASTER:

- I'd like to go back to Dr. Agwunobi's earlier comments about taking the pieces of the vision and using those as strategic areas for us to look at.
- For instance, what are the elements that protect children that lend themselves to child safety?

- I go back to Dr. Schaechter's comment at the first meeting about the simple idea of seat belts and safety restraints, and you can go beyond that to abuse prevention, intervention strategies for unhealthy families and things like that, early intervention strategies that keep children safe.
- Healthy families is a good example of a very comprehensive approach to building strong families and fostering a family that raises healthy children, so maybe, you know, around that idea you can begin to identify all those area's aspects of what are the things that keep children safe, the things that happen later, high school education, for instance, that help keep children safe, some of the things that the young folks talked about at lunch today when they talked about AIDS prevention for high school students and the ideas behind all of that, the health strategies behind that, for instance.
- That does cross back over into the health piece, but that's okay.
- I think it's a wonderful opportunity to see where these things converge and then to identify in that process what are the agencies involved in this, and are there any conflicting funding streams that those agencies have?

MR. KALLINGER:

- So do you propose that we make prevention one of our key issues?

MS. LANCASTER:

- Yes, indeed, it does cross all the age bands, but, you know, what do we want to say about prevention?
- Because there are so many types of prevention and -- and I think absolutely if our vision is to raise healthy children, safe children, productive children who realize their full potential, there are huge prevention strategies that go into that.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- Why don't we just go with the three age bands and figure out what fits under the three, and then we can abandon it totally if this doesn't work, but at least get something down on paper.
- When I'm thinking of prenatal to age five, I'm thinking about such areas as high quality child care -- it's a major imperative -- and something we need to do more things about in this stage.
- I'm thinking about parent skill building. We can't do this without parents.
- I'm thinking about medical homes for children.
- I'm thinking about high quality Pre-K at age four provided under our constitutional amendment. Each of those -- we need to make real progress in those if we're to get to the promise land or semi promise land for children.

SENATOR RICH:

- The things that you have mentioned are within what I would call a silo of zero to five, now we have to look at you have issues of child welfare.
- So, you know, I guess that's why I'm having a little difficulty with this because I think we could apply most of -- any of the areas that we would be thinking about from child care to children's health to child welfare, you know, to any age category because there are kids, you know, that are affected by all of those -- all of those things.
- That's why I'm kind of not sure that this is the most productive thing for us to be doing right now.
- So I think we need to come up with the categories that are going to be the most important to us, and then we back in, you know. We look at those age bands, but I think doing it with the age bands is kind of not getting us the priorities that we want to focus on as a cabinet.

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- Does it mean for the band that is between, you know, the adolescents or something like that? Same thing with health. So it's just a template against which we put -- because ultimately -- if we could fast forward today, ultimately we would be at our vision. Anything we put into place that doesn't relate to this vision will not get us to the vision so we -- so that, you know -- I think that's maybe just an overview.

COMMISSIONER BLOMBERG:

- I think within the five categories in our vision would be safety, health and education, and so we would start from there.
- We could do it within the bands in terms of what are the key areas that we have to focus in on in those areas.
- I think in our mission statement we had a category as well that wasn't quite the same but similar.

MS. LANCASTER:

- Is there anything wrong with saying that we're going to focus on those areas and then inviting testimony around that?
- I thought that Dr. Kagan provided an excellent focus for us. It started us out on very good footing, and there's no question about it that there are folks who have done the research and who have really worked hard to formulate the answers and recommendations for this. So as a -- just a starting point, it would just strike me that perhaps we ought to take those three areas and say, All right.
- We're going to look at those individually. At the end of the testimony on those areas, then we can really formulate a stronger plan.
- I mean, I don't think its incumbent upon us to have all the answers.
- First of all, the statute provides for an advisory board or advisory council, which could be constructed of various experts in the field, who could be wonderful supports to this, the researchers, the academicians and folks who were out there in the trenches doing the work, and I would suggest that might be a way to hand off some of those tasks to those folks who are eminent in their field.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- Mr. Chair, I appreciate the spirit of everyone, and I agree with you 90 percent of it.
- I do think that there are a few things that we agree on more than that, and before we walk out the door, we ought to state what those are so we don't get testimony trying to convince us to do what we're already inclined do, and what I think those are is that we -- we can wordsmith this later -- but that children should have access to quality early child care as measured by certain standards.
- I think that we agree that all children should have access to a medical home and quality healthcare.
- I think that we agree that we need to work on improving data sharing for the purpose of measurement and improving the lives of children and that that should be part interagency collaboration.

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- What are the top ten things that we can come to agreement on that will lead to every child in Florida -- every child and family in Florida be empowered with the community's supports and opportunity that enable them to develop into well-balanced, healthy and productive members, or maybe the better way of phrasing it is what ten areas, if we are successful in them, will lead to children in Florida becoming well-balanced, healthy and productive members of our state?
- Once we answer that question, then we choose five of them or six of those, and we see how they apply across the bands, and we get to work on those.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- Yeah. I think that starts a great -- those are just the beginning points that start to break down the areas we've outline, and I was remiss. I should have also said I think we also agree that we need compassionate and appropriate aids to transition.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- In the prenatal care side of it too because we got the prenatal care and then obviously the lack of prenatal care with the mortality, morbidity, health screening.
- I mean, that's all got to be in there because those are very direct predictors of the outcome because if we don't get that first, the baby born -- it could be something as basic as lead poisoning.

MR. KALLINGER:

- I'm hearing safety at home and in the community.
- I'm hearing health issues.
- I'm hearing education.
- Do we want to focus around those three issues and move forward?
- We can get testimony and enlighten us more on those issues, and then from that we can develop a strategy and set some goals in one of those three areas, or do we want to add to that?

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- The only question I have is the statute also addresses the ability to be productive members of the work force.
- I thought we might want to include employment or training for employment or careers, something so that we're not just educating kids.
- We're also giving them skills that they need so they can support themselves, if possible.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Would that be part of education, vocational education?

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- It looks differently in the statute, so I didn't know if it needed to be separate, but it could be part of education, yes.

CHIEF JUSTICE LEWIS:

- I think Dr. Schaechter -- I think she included that as her last statement, is the transition from the education into whatever it is. Didn't you? Like into adulthood, and I would hope that that would include whatever the productivity would be, whether it's employment, sheltered employment, whatever it is.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- I'm absolutely telling you that if we pick three priorities, half the people in this audience are going to say, I don't see that you -- my party's not subsumed in your recommendation, so rather than working toward something constructive and prospective about it, we're going to end up back here spending our time rationalizing what we have set as a priority. I just think if we -- we have offered to do a holistic approach. I think, again, if we ask for -- a living document is just that. It can be changed over and over and over again, but unless we have that document from which to work, I just don't know how we can as a group -- unless we want to consider meeting three or four more times before the end of year -- can really get there from here.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Mr. Batchelor, if we were to identify two, three, four issues, could not the agencies then present on those particular issues? Instead of just kind of leaving it open, then they come in present their overall plan if we give them some direction. Okay. We want you to present on education, child safety. Maybe then they would focus in more on those issues that we've identified as being important, and I think if there's any overlap, then that will come up, I think, in that discussion.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- I think the answer to your question very succinctly is that yes, that can happen if you choose two, three categories that have Age bands. And then if these respective agencies came back and said, In these age bands, these are the -- in our agencies these are the top priorities for these.

SENATOR RICH:

- I think I'd like to go back, and I think, Dr. Agwunobi, we talked about this before, about, you know, that each agency has a list or -- of priorities that they're working on.
- I would like to suggest -- I am not in favor of the agencies coming back with a plan for us.

- I really don't believe that's why this cabinet was created, and I would like to see each agency, not to come back with your whole plan or work plan but to look at knowing now that we have discussed these three age bands, if you could come back to us at the next meeting with your top priorities.
- I don't care if it's three, five. You know, you all can to decide that. Come back with that to us and let us see how and if those interact at all, what you're doing, what AHCA's doing, what the Department of Health is doing.
- The last thing is I would like to suggest that we have a facilitator for the next meeting so that we can get this plan done because I don't believe all of us sitting here and just putting out our ideas -- I really believe that we need someone who is professional trained to do that, and if we could have that at the next meeting, I think we could get this.
- With all the discussion we've done, I think we could knock this out pretty quickly. That would be my suggestion.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Senator Rich that is a great idea.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- First of all, I think the facilitator is a great idea.
- We ought to do it, and we ought to make that the meeting, and if we need an extra meeting to do this, let's do an extra meeting because we're going to be permanently frustrated until we get something down on paper, and we're not on the same page.

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- Let's come up with the five things that today we believe should be on that final master list.
- There's multiple other things that's going to add between now and the next meeting, and then we will choose between them after thoughtful deliberation, and we'll figure out what to do. Just a suggestion.
- I like the facilitator idea too.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Members, should we then identify four to six ideas that we want put on that list and then agree that we would bring in a facilitator at our next meeting to help us craft a strategic plan around those four to six ideas that we recognized here today? Does that sound like a plan?

SECRETARY AGWUNOBI:

- Except the last thing you said about crafting a strategic plan around the four to six issues.
- We're going to ultimately -- my suggestion is we ultimately choose -- there could be twenty issues at the end of the day once we hear from all the interests we need, and we'll choose from that final master list, but what we're saying today is let's get four or five or six or seven or whatever on the list today.

MR. KALLINGER:

- And then I think we do need to -- just my thoughts on that, Dr. Agwunobi, I think that we would have to -- in order for this cabinet to get started with movement and develop into some momentum, you know, we may have to narrow it down to five. There may be twenty, but if we take it down to five, develop a plan around, and then that plan evolves, and as we knock these things out, we add more to it.
- What we have on the table now is to identify four to six issues that we would like to see this cabinet start with.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- That children have access to high quality, early childhood education as measured by certain standards to -- with that as open right now, and all the early childhood people can correct that -- that all children have access to a medical home and quality healthcare, that --

SURGEON GENERAL VIAMONTE ROS:

- Can I add quality physical, mental and dental care?

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- That there are supports to provide compassionate and appropriate transition to adulthood, particularly focusing on foster children; that the state provides child and family-focused services, including but not limited to one-stop servicing for children and families and no wrong-door policies; that interagency collaboration -- needs for interagency collaboration are determined, implemented and that those would include mechanisms for data sharing for the purpose of measurement and improvements for individuals. I think that was six. That our interagency collaboration -- needs for interagency collaboration will be devised and implemented and that those would include mechanisms for data sharing for the purpose of outcome measurements as well as improvement at the individual level.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- Two observations, one would be we got to have prenatal care.
- It's going to be part of that, and I don't think it's subsumed in the medical care -- medical care inclusive of prenatal care.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- That's a good point. I -- my definition of health -- we haven't determined as a cabinet a definition of health, but it would include that.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Yeah. With the age bands, I think it would.

COMMISSIONER BLOMBERG:

- In terms of education, we talked about for the child, but once we get to prioritizing, education goes all the way -- all the way through and then also the transition from foster care, but we also have a very serious issue in terms of transition from children who are in the juvenile justice system and transitioning back to public school or transitioning back to the community, so the transitioning needs to be expanded beyond just foster care.

MS. GUERRA:

- One of my big issues would be strong after school programs, kids at risk programs and alternatives to crime, drugs, teenage pregnancy.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- Each child has a free and appropriate, necessary legal representation, inclusive of guardian ad litem, if they access the criminal justice system.
- One of the biggest problems out there is obviously protection of child.

MS. ORKIN:

- We can say including -- more of the same, including guardian ad litem in certain proceedings to ensure that they're receiving appropriate services and access to the courts or something along those lines.
- I think it's a critical piece of -- have services with the multiple agencies that they're -- that are for them, but if you state it a little more broadly than if we say it's for legal or court, then we can work within that.

SENATOR RICH:

- I just would like to ask that we change the words from child care in that early education category because it really should be early childhood education or something that reflects not just child care but the educational needs of the VPK and child care.

MR. LAWRENCE:

- And I think the specific wording is early developmental -- early childhood development, care and education.
- Early childhood development, care and education. They all need to fit together.

DIRECTOR JOHNSON:

- I'd like to add a prong to the transition piece, also the transition of students with disabilities as they come out from under the protection of IDEA into either employment or where they lose some of the services they get as children under twenty-one and need Medicaid waivers, assistance to remain in their communities.
- It's sort of a three-prong transition, finishing with foster care, the justice system and then transition students with disabilities.

SURGEON GENERAL VIAMONTE ROS:

- Children that are in special needs do need somehow a seamless transition, which right now doesn't happen.

MR. KALLINGER:

- It looks like we have ten on this list,
- I think everybody was very passionate with their input on this, and I hate to cut any of it out at the moment.
- We have identified ten issues that we want to adopt as a cabinet to move forward with, not to say there's not going to be more in the future, but we have a starting point with this information, and then what we will do -- what staff will do then, if everybody's in agreement with this, is we will go ahead and identify a facilitator to come to our next meeting in Orlando in January and help us to develop a strategic plan.

SURGEON GENERAL VIAMONTE ROS:

- I didn't know if injury -- the idea of addressing injury, which I think is very important, prevention, I don't know if that was part of the list or not.

DR. SCHAECHTER:

- It didn't make the list in front of me.
- What I kept thinking is number eleven is assuring that children grow up in safe environments, which would include injuries in other areas.

SURGEON GENERAL VIAMONTE ROS:

- And one last thing, addressing risky behaviors.

MR. KALLINGER:

- That would fall under the prevention category.

MS. LANCASTER:

- Mr. Chairman, I do want to go back to one idea that should be underpinning all of this that we're doing is when we consider these areas, we surely need to start with an analysis of the funding stream and the current resources.
- I just want to hunter back to the Chief Justice's earlier comment and the fact that as we look at these steps one is to analyze the funding streams and the resources that are dedicated to those purposes.

MR. KALLINGER:

- And, again, I want to point out in the statute that is one of our duties and responsibilities. Even if it's not in our strategic plan, we do have to take that up, and it's a standalone in the statute, so maybe that's the way to approach it, as a standalone issue.

MR. BATCHELOR:

- If the staff is going to translate that, may I suggest that it be communicated or put up on the website so, not unlike the last time, people -- not just us but other people who are advocates who were at the last meeting can kind of comment on it?
- It'd be very instructive to us, I think, if those comments would have been shared with us as to what they think about it, and I know that the Governor's attitude --the unfettered public access. I think it would very instructive for us to hear from other people.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Mr. Batchelor, there has been unfettered public access to all our -- in fact, that document that we put out in front of you today was posted on our website, and as the input came in was posted on the website, so yes, we are doing that, and like I said, it's very important we do get public input on what we do, so Jennifer's on top of that.

MR. KALLINGER:

- Members, have we made progress? We've identified a lot of issues, and we will have a facilitator at our next meeting.

SENATOR RICH:

- Is there any way to have another meeting before January, like in December or November, so that we could move ahead with this?
- I'm thinking, you know, get a little closer to some at least framework of a strategic plan by December 31st.

Mr. Kallinger leads the discussion of dates for a possible interim meeting. It is decided that staff will contact all cabinet members with dates then will identify the dates that work best for most cabinet members.

Mr. Kallinger reviews the next steps that the Cabinet has requested: identify a date for an interim to develop the strategic plan, identify a facilitator to help the Cabinet develop the strategic plan for the interim meeting and flush out the 11 issues discussed today to work on. Mr. Kallinger beings the public comment portion of meeting.

Public Comment and Presentation begins at 2:15 pm.

- Florida Children's Services Council role, programs, funding and philosophy: Vivian Alarcon, Chief Executive Officer, Florida Children's Services Council, Inc.
- Modeling Children and Family Services: Thomas Minkoff, South County Community Council Chairperson, JWB Children's Services Council of Pinellas County
- Youth and Families in Mid-County, Pinellas: Ray Neri, Chairman, JWB Mid-County Community Council
- At-risk Youth of the Hispanic Population: Carol Johnson, Chair, JWB – North County Community Council
- Our Families' Four Generations; Ready or Not, Here We Are-Addressing the needs of children in the context of our multigenerational families and communities: Jack Levine, Founder, 4Generations Institute
- Florida's Childcare Crisis: Linda Carmona-Sanchez, Project Director, Alliance for Early Care and Education, Inc.**
- Healthy Families Florida – A Proven Prevention Program: Carol McNally, Executive Director, Healthy Families Florida, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida**
- Florida Youth Transitioning to Adulthood Research: Joseph Clark, President, Eckerd Family Foundation
- Children's Crossover Program: Robert Dillinger, Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender, Public Defender's Office

- Residential Group Care: Bill Frye, Vice President of Programs, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch
- Prepaid Therapy Issue: Pat Groz, President, Florida Consortium of Advocates for Infants and Toddlers, Inc.**
- The Golden Opportunity to Effect Change in Florida's Children Starts Before Birth: Jennifer Highland, Chair – Communications Committee, Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions

Mr. Kallinger requested a motion to extend to meeting to 4:15 pm be able to hear from all public presenters. There was a motion, Ms. Crawford seconds. Verbal vote and motion carried.

- Legal training for Departments of Juvenile Justice and Children and Families: Brian Pitts, Justice 2 Jesus

Mr. Kallinger states that the children's cabinet appreciates the public comment participation. The folks on your cabinet are committed to our children and our families. These folks on the cabinet are extremely busy, and we have department heads. We have a Governor who's committed to children and families. You have a legislature that is committed to children and families, and I really believe that if we go forward from here and continue to work together as a team, I'm convinced that there's nothing that we cannot accomplish for our kids, and but it's going to take your help, your participation, and we just want to thank for you that. Mr. Kallinger thanks the members. The group had a lot of intense discussion and accomplished a lot.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:09 pm