

Children and Youth Cabinet



Date: September 5 2008

To: Committee Members on the Budget

From: Sharon L. Read
Fort Myers Office
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Re: Highlights from September 5, 2008 Telephone conference call

Committee Persons present:

Gay Lancaster, Chairperson, representing Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board
Jim DeBeaugrine, representing the APD
Phyllis Sloyer, representing the DOH
Dennis Moore, representing GAL
Paulette Mainwood on behalf of Linda Champion, representing DOE
Vickie Harris on behalf of Bonnie Rogers, representing DJJ
Michele Tallent, representing AHCA
Brittany Birken, representing AWI
Jim Crona on behalf of Melissa Jaacks, representing DCF
Tom Mims on behalf of Shan Goff, representing DOE
Bill Ammons, representing AWI

Proceedings:

The telephone conference call meeting began at 10:03 am with Gay Lancaster's request for a review of the last spreadsheet circulated by each agency represented on the call; inquiring whether or not the information represented in the spreadsheet was as much as we have or as much as we will get.

Vickie Harris on behalf of the DJJ stated that the figures from DJJ were projected expenditures from the 2007-2008 budget year by State or Federal and that the figures were estimated from Schedule 11, including activities received from the Research and Data Division. Harris stated that the figures were reported in June-July and that currently

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all expenditure data is not in, but that the service data number is correct as it related to total children served.

Action Item: Obtain copies of the Schedule 11 from all agencies.

Phyllis Sloyer on behalf of the DOH stated that by instructions, their submission for the spreadsheet was with expenditures for the 2007-2008 year, that everything reported was correct and that there would be no additions. Some discussion was held on the Possible Kids Count Indicators and the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Action Items: Need to supply Sloyer and others with a list of indicators for feed back and an initial attempt at matching.

Jim DeBeaugrine on behalf of APD advised that APD's portion on the spreadsheet reflects projected expenditures as they are still paying 2007-2008 bills and that he would be able to update his figures after the first of October. DeBeaugrine stated that he would have to go back to check direct services as the APD contract does not cost out unit services and may not specify the number of children served. He feels it important that we need to know what we don't know versus what we already know and thinks it would be a good idea to not enter into a contract unless the children are served. With a budget of 3.9 Million, a lot of children could be served. Figures should be available within 2 weeks.

Lancaster inquired as to discussing the means to apply partial grants or the degree to take out those that don't accurately reflect true services. DeBeaugrine stated that he feels it best to treat the issue as a pass through service, not part of a service from the budget because of the lack of good data. For instance, if the \$50,000 reported went away, they would still service 100 kids; can't get a good number on applied services if we can't count accurately and remove the inaccurate information. When questioned by Lancaster on how we categorize dollars that flow through, DeBeaugrine stated that he would talk to his contract unit and they may have to go back to the provider for an accurate count; that it costs tax payers a lot of money and the effort needs to be put on services; that the money could be spent elsewhere in the event it is not a direct service. He suggests a roll up and shows the roll up as grants to community organizations. Lancaster agreed and stated that we need to find out what Florida is spending in concert with others, meaning state and federal. Are we getting results? That the Cabinet's goals are simple and we need to point out where it's doing the most good; need to define money issues and services as well as understand why Florida is at the bottom of the health care list.

Jim Crona on behalf of DCF stated that DCF figures projected everything, however, their books will be closed as of next month and the actual expenditures in the October report

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will be exact figures. He will go back and review as he feels that the figures have been overstated by 4% and states that variables such as ineligible clients, year end details and other issues make it difficult to break down family or child. Also mental health issues, substance abuse issues, when they treat as an adult or parent but it reflects down to the child.

Harris of DJJ stated that the DJJ did the same thing as DCF and interjected that the Schedule 11 Unit Cost Schedule that every agency submits showing activity allocations units did not help. Sloyer stated that it did not help her as well.

Lancaster stated how important it will be in characterizing administrative and regulatory issues; the need to make sure that we give the correct impression; stating that it was her goal that any lay person could pick up and understand what we are doing.

Michele Tallent from AHCA stated the difficulties with her agency pulling together information; she states that they work with Medicaid and that the figures are budget information not claims submitted. She advises that the information gathered by providers is submitted to a private vendor or fiscal agent and these issues are being worked out, thus the reason for the lack of figures. That they are working on retrieving the children served but that they work on a case load number and not one to one or case to child. She hopes to have the information by October. Lancaster stated, thus the reason why we need refinement.

Crona brought up the issue of the case load count being duplicated and gave the example of a child being reported on the hotline possibly several times during the year and going to various agencies; for instance if there are 159,000 calls on the hotline, how many children are actually being serviced as intake? Is it going into the data as 3 distinct services?

Tallent and Crona both brought up the subject of an estimating conference process and Lancaster stated that she thought it was a terrific idea and had previously mentioned it at a Cabinet meeting with out much enthusiasm. A lengthy discussion was held on the pros and cons of hosting this type of meeting with topics i.e.:

1. Should a Children & Youth Budget and Estimating Conference be created?
2. How much does the State spend on children and youth and what are the results?
3. Eligibility criteria different levels for different agencies.
4. Is adoption subsidiary required by Law? Should it be? Mandated?
5. Medicaid issues, mandatory or optional? Services by statute?
6. Will public policy change be necessary?
7. Timing issue now; cannot get mandate because there is no funding.
8. Difficulty in capturing information; need to be comprehensive.
9. Strategy on holding a estimating conference process.
10. **ACTION ITEM: Sharon to obtain the name and number of the Governor Estimating Conference individual for Lancaster to call.**

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11. Problems encountered; lack of common data; lack of communication and budget nomenclature. Without commonality, no lay person will be able to make a determination.
12. Concern of attending two estimating conferences for each agency.
13. **ACTION ITEM: Schedule a face to faceestimating conference meeting for cabinet members after October 15th**
14. State covering estimating conferences is 216.136 per Tallent.
15. Best way to get to a budget is through the legislation.
16. National indicators would be good; comparison is necessary.

Dennis Moore for the GAL referred us to page 6 for correction of the indicator being a DCF and not a GAL indicator; number of children represented is 80% and the goal is 100% of the children represented.

Paulette Mainwood for DOE apologized for not being familiar with the background but that DOE is facing the same issues raised as others; real concern is indicators and she needs to get with the data folks to address duplication by state and federal.

Bill Ammons commented on the OEL in AWI figures stating that the \$343,562 is closer to \$342,000; and that the \$649,000 figure should be \$646,000 but refinement will be coming after October 15th.

Lancaster will schedule a October date for the estimating conference in the near future. She has requested that all parties be briefed thoroughly in the event those in attendance today will not be coming to the October face to facemeeting.

The meeting was concluded at 11:30 pm.

/slr

Recap of Action Items:

1. **Obtain copies of the Schedule 11 from all agencies. Appears that this action item not necessary due to comments made later that the Schedule was not helpful.**
2. **Need to supply Sloyer and others with a list of indicators for feed back and an initial attempt at matching.**

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- 3. Sharon to obtain the name and number of the Governor's Estimating Conference individual for Lancaster to call.**
- 4. Schedule a "face to face" estimating conference meeting for cabinet members after October 15th**

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