

Children and Youth Cabinet
Budget Committee



To: Committee Members on the Budget

From: Sharon L. Read Jennifer Diaz
Fort Myers Office The Capitol
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Re: Minutes from June 19, 2008 Telephone conference call

Committee Persons present:

Gay Lancaster, Chairperson
Jim DeBeaugrine, representing the APD
Phyllis Sloyer, representing the DOH
Dennis Moore, representing GAL
Linda Champion, representing the DOE
Bonnie Rogers, representing the DJJ

Committee Persons not present

Shan Goff, representing the DOE
Frank Peterman, representing the DJJ
Maureen S. Dinnen
Senator Nan Rich
Representative Loranne Ausley

Public and or other Agencies

Rich Komando, representing the GAL until Dennis Moore able to join in
Lisa Sahulka, representing the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board
Debra Prewitt, representing the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board
Jane Soltis, VP Programs, Eckerd Family Foundation
Joe Clark, Eckerd Family Foundation

Proceedings:

The telephone conference call meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Chairperson Lancaster, who requested that Sharon Read call the roll and prepare the minutes. Chairperson Lancaster advised that Maureen Dinnen was unable to join the conference today due to scheduling conflicts but Maureen had read the information disseminated and her comments would be addressed during the meeting. Further, to protect the accuracy of the record, Chairperson Lancaster requested that each individual please announce their name before speaking. Chairperson Lancaster introduced two of her associates who were joining in on the telephone conference, more specifically:

Lisa Sahulka, Director of Finance and Contracts

-and-

Debra Prewitt, Director of Community Planning and Policy Communication

Chairperson Lancaster began by stating that the main purpose today was to get together and decide if our goals as set by statute are reachable and to decide on the action plan to be taken. She apologized for the short notice and the amount of documentation that were submitted on June 17th, and hoped that everyone would be able to review same in the immediate future. Chairperson Lancaster stated that Maureen Dinnen had spoken with Jennifer Diaz and the following suggestions were made with respect to the presentation that had been sent to all on the Committee:

- 1) DOE percentages may be out of date; Maureen believes that the Florida School Board Association has updated numbers, local percentages may have surpassed the State.
- 2) Need to find out the number of children served for each agency (some are listed and some are not).
- 3) Need to find out the frequency of services from each agency, example: DOE/schools serve kids 5 days a week?

Chairperson Lancaster stated that we cannot meet the goals that are set by statute without knowing where the money is coming from and that we must understand the context of what we are doing. Linda Champion confirmed that it is crucial that the numbers be validated and that maybe every member of the Committee should be involved in double checking the numbers. Chairperson Lancaster respectfully requested that Linda Champion's suggestion be followed thorough by all members of the Committee, to which Bonnie Rogers added that it would be prudent for all members to go back and double check the figures because she personally could not speak to the accuracy of the figures in the presentation.

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Chairperson Lancaster stated that her office had taken the somewhat distorted numbers given to the Cabinet and tried to make them as manageable and comprehensive as possible and then requested Lisa Shulka to address the matter further. Lisa responded that it was difficult to compile the numbers dealing with duplicate spreadsheets and incomplete information, referring to different services provided that also may be duplicative information. Lisa stated that it would be very helpful if everyone would double check their agency figures, especially since it was her understanding from Tallahassee that she could get numbers for children's services and begin organizing revenue streams for child services. These goals are not fully developed as yet and she added that although the numbers balanced on the spread sheet, it doesn't necessarily make it right. Lisa is also interested in examining the specific spending percentages of each department and that if everyone will send in new numbers; the spreadsheet will be corrected and resent.

Phyllis Sloyer inquired as to where the original budget figures came from and that it appeared that there was a double budget, i.e., CMS. Lisa Shulka stated that the original figures came from the matrix provided by Alisa Ghazvini, however, that Lisa had concerns because of the way agencies report spending differently; that it appeared that the budget was a double budget including general appropriations and agency administration. Phyllis also stated that Healthy Start was left off of the spreadsheet and inquired if members were to provide information for the missing agencies as well, to which Chairperson Lancaster responded that we certainly wanted information about any agencies that Committee members felt belonged on the spreadsheet.

When Chairperson Lancaster inquired if it would be possible to get the real numbers, Bonnie Rogers stated that if the agencies would break out appropriations versus activity, it could be done, but noted that there is no consistency on how program dollars are reported. Chairperson Lancaster interjected that she felt it the immediate goal of this Committee to determine how it is reported and what base is used, in other words what is spent for children and where it comes from. Lisa Shulka felt that it would be possible to break out children only, to which Bonnie Rogers, who is in favor of reporting via appropriation, added that by reporting on activities and lining the dollars under the general appropriations act, it might not look the same. Chairperson Lancaster expressed concern about whether using appropriation as a reporting tool could be consistent across all of the involved agencies and commented that there were problems when this method was attempted in the past.

Jim DeBeaugrine stated his agency reports via activities and that he could not look at the budget and separate child spending unless it was shown under APD using the ACHA list. Jim went on to state the importance on the need to run the actual expenditures and make sure nothing is duplicated especially medicade who pays regardless of budget. Jim stated we would need to estimate only on children services using the prior year as an actual and validate it. Bonnie Rogers stated that Jim is correct, that we can get to the actual expenditures using the most current data budgeted or allocated, but it's not as efficient as actual expenditure.

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Chairperson Lancaster stated that it may take us a little longer to get to that point but by validating the numbers on a spread sheet, using columns for general appropriations, program and actual expenditures, what comes in doesn't always come out; and that by starting with the current fiscal year of June 30 it would be a beginning. Phyllis Sloyer interjected that the only problem would be most final figures are not ready until September 30th. Chairperson Lancaster stated that we would start with June 2007 and once the September figures were in we could go on to 2007-2008. Jim DeBeaugrine felt that was a good plan.

Chairperson Lancaster reemphasized that each agency will provide up to date information for the year 2006-2007 in as short a turn around time as possible, using three columns on a spread sheet with the validated numbers and that this would be **AN ACTION ITEM**.

Phyllis Sloyer expressed concern about her agency having different nomenclature than the others, saying that this will make compiling information difficult. Chairperson Lancaster said that she believes that there will not be huge discrepancies and asked Phyllis to provide the most complete report possible. Phyllis requested that a summary be sent to the Committee and Chairperson Lancaster requested that the summary be placed in the minutes as **AN ACTION ITEM**.

Dennis Moore, who joined in the call late, due to a prior commitment, requested Chairperson Lancaster to repeat the parameters of reporting the budget date and she complied.

Chairperson Lancaster stated that Lisa Shulka will be assisting with the preparation of the documentation that the Committee will gather. For purposes of communication, Lisa may be reached at: 727.547.5643 and lsahulka@wbpinellas.org. Once the figures come in Lisa will reduce same in template form.

Phyllis Sloyer noted for the record that we do not have Healthy Kids as a Committee contact and Chairperson Lancaster requested that Jennifer Diaz as **AN ACTION ITEM** reach out to AHCA, Holly Benson and Michele Tallent to assist with the Committee. Phyllis asked if eligibility requirements are to be imposed and if so, whether on the state or federal level, although she felt that was a question to be discussed at the next phase and Chairperson Lancaster accepted the suggestion to move forward with phase 1.

Chairperson Lancaster inquired as to the barriers that we might come across however after discussion it was determined that it was a premature subject and the issue would be tabled. It was agreed that once the template was sent out to the Committee and the responses received, the spread sheet prepared, then another conference call would be scheduled, prior to the July 14 meeting and this is to be considered **AN ACTION ITEM**.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm.

/slr