



Cabinet Committee #3  
Committee on Commissions, Councils and Reports Recommendations  
January 13, 2009 Meeting Notes  
Tallahassee, FL

**NOTE: The following is a summary of the highlights of the meeting and is not intended to be construed as a transcript.**

Committee Members in Attendance

Dick Batchelor, Chair  
Jim Kallinger, OACP  
Cindy Guerra, OAG  
Stacy Howard, AWI  
Vanessa Littleton, Committee Assistant

Cabinet/Agency Representation in Attendance

Bonnie Rogers, DJJ  
Jason Welty, DJJ

Others in Attendance

Debra Dowds, Florida Developmental Disabilities  
Dr. Marie Dinon, Visitor  
Sharon L. Read, Staff

Hand Outs

Florida Child Abuse Death Review Team 2007 Recommendations  
Blueprint Commission Recommendation Status  
Executive Summary by the Office of Adoption and Child Protection

**Proceedings**

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am by Chairman Dick Batchelor, who gave an overview on the purpose of the committee and stated that the goal is to integrate the findings and recommendations of prior commissions and councils as a tool to assist the Cabinet in the achieving the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Batchelor stated it is hard to set priorities when it is unknown which programs will be funded or cut during the current fiscal crisis and that he had sent a letter to the Lieutenant Governor requesting that the Cabinet be thoroughly briefed on the outcome of the Special Legislature Session in order to proceed with the Cabinet's work product in an informed and

constructive manner. The response Mr. Batchelor received stated that it was the intent of the Lieutenant Governor to provide an update to the members of the Children's Cabinet on the actions and deliberations however, that the update would be a snapshot, recognizing that the Session is not expected to conclude until January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Bonnie Rogers stated that the DJJ Report had been sent to the Governor's Office and they were awaiting the green light.

Mr. Kallinger stated that the goals of the committee must first be met, and then the goals of the Strategic Plan of the CYC will be fulfilled. Some goals may be achieved despite budget cuts. We need to check them off as being worked on. The goals that are not addressed, assign to the Work Group.

Mr. Batchelor agreed that we need to keep moving with our mission and goals in mind; that funding is a factor with the budget and we may have a problematic set back.

Mr. Kallinger stated that we need to look at the charge of the committee to avoid duplication. The Work Group is developing a frame work of indicators on child well being in Florida. These indicators would keep the focus on providing funds to the priorities that would provide the best return for investment by the state. Mr. Kallinger also stated that the State is not unified in targeting the work to be done. The committee should determine are there others working on the same goals? Who are they partners with? What can we do to help them achieve the goals? What can they do to help us achieve goals?

Mr. Kallinger gave a summation on the Executive Summary for the Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan. It is to be noted that the Executive Summary will be posted on the web site for review and that Barbara Foster would be addressing the Cabinet on the issue. Mr. Kallinger noted that the CYC Strategic goals would align with the Office of Adoption whether "all" or "in part", possibly touching on all goals but not completely.

Discussion was held on recommendations to be made to the Legislature. Mr. Batchelor stated that the Cabinet could be an informed advocacy tool, playing an important part with the Legislature; the Cabinet could present recommendations based on all the hearings and work product done, by agency heads who know which cuts would hurt the most or least. The Cabinet could recommend that a certain issue be a continuum of care that needs to be funded. Mr. Batchelor stated that the Cabinet could be a resource for the new legislators, lending credibility of the Cabinet's name, stating that the recommendation meets requirements of an advocacy group and is consistent with the CYC mission. Definite asset for Legislatures. Mr. Kallinger stated that all this would help the legislators hone in and focus on where we could get the best return for the investment, using Healthy Families as an example.

Bonnie Rogers commented that goals are so very important; that the DJJ plan was presented in private session today and that the hopes are to link up with the higher level of government and the CYC to achieve the common goals. She stated that the CYC will carry a big impact on legislature and that the CYC has helped the DJJ.

Mr. Batchelor stated that it is essential that the CYC go to the Legislature; that we need to reduce our recommendations to writing as well as find out what others are doing.

Mr. Kallinger stated that we need to develop a mechanism to go through the process. How do they align with the CYC Strategic Plan? He spoke about Gay Lancaster's Budget Committee and how the Budget Committee was working on identifying every dollar spent on Family & Children and that the alignment of indicators that they come up with will help this committee immensely.

Mr. Batchelor introduced Vanessa Littleton a student from the University of Central Florida who is working on her Ph.D. Mr. Batchelor stated that she can't wait to get to the data out there whether it's precise or not, and work with the agencies and other out sources.

Discussion turned to the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) staffers. Mr. Batchelor suggested that it would be appropriate to enlighten them so that they are informed of CYC projects and how it interfaces with legislation. This will lend credibility to how it happened. Question to ponder, how we can be helpful to the OPB and the Legislature?

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 pm.