

TO: The Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
FROM: Ted Granger, Chairman, Children's Summit Workgroup
RE: State of Florida's Child Report
DATE: Sept. 23, 2008

This memo provides a progress update on the State of Florida's Child Report being prepared by The Policy Group on behalf of the Children's Summit Workgroup for the Florida Cabinet for Children and Youth. The Cabinet asked the Workgroup in May to undertake the report.

Work to date has focused on gathering information about state, national and international use of indicators, and also on gathering specific indicator data. State agencies, Cabinet members, the Summit Workgroup and The Policy Group for Florida's Families and Children were asked, via survey, to provide input in several key areas, among them:

- "The vision of the Florida Cabinet for Children and Youth is that 'All children in Florida grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to meet their full potential.' Please rate the following outcomes for how important you think they are for reaching the vision." Priorities were as follows:
 1. Healthy Children
 2. Stable and Nurturing Families
 3. Ready to Learn and Succeed in School
 4. Children Safe in Their Families and Communities
 5. Economically Self-Sufficient Families
 6. Supportive Communities

The content of the report will be arranged to correspond with priorities.

- Information useful for inclusion in the report. Priorities were:
 1. Florida data linked to research-based indicators of child well being
 2. Status of Florida on key indicators of child well being
 3. Guidance on how the information and indicators can form a "results" framework leading to shared goals
 4. Likely opportunities for alignment of actions with Cabinet goals
 5. Key defining practices, policies, programs or procedures that make states successful in achieving outcomes
 6. Information on "best practice" ways to improve outcomes
 7. Identification of public and private sector agencies, organizations and individuals who have a role to play in producing results

Including all of these in the initial report may not be practical due to time and other resource constraints. Numbers 5, 6 and 7 could be the basis of future work.

A preliminary format has been developed based upon a review of similar documents nationwide. Emphasis will be placed on each outcome area and why the area is important to child well being; why each indicator is important, and the data definition; Florida's ranking and the national ranking; and ways to move forward that align the Cabinet's strategic plan with research- and evidence-based information.

Data collection will continue in October. A progress report will be provided to the Cabinet at the Nov. 18 meeting. Report writing will occur in November and December, with an expected presentation to the Cabinet at its January 2009 meeting.