

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

2013

*Annual
Report*



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FLORIDA CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET



The Florida Legislature found that all state agencies and programs that touch the lives of children and youth must work in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a continuum of services that benefit children from prenatal care through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood. As such, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet) was created and signed into law on July 11, 2007. The Cabinet is codified in Florida Statute 402.56. The statutory charge of the Cabinet is to ensure the public policy of the state relating to children and youth is developed to promote interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order that services designed 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.

VISION

All children in Florida grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to meet their full potential.

MISSION

To ensure that the public policy of Florida relating to children and youth promotes interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order for services designed for children and youth to be planned, managed and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and quality of life of all children and youth in Florida.

The Cabinet created a strategic plan that requires creative and collaborative approaches to initiate action towards facilitating achievement of the following goals:

- Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all governmental agencies that provide services for children, youth, and their families.
- Ensure that all children live in permanent, safe and nurturing environments.
- Ensure that all children in Florida have access to high-quality preventative, primary, specialty, and long-term healthcare.
- Assure high quality, seamless, research-based education and learning opportunities for all children.
- Build, allocate and align sufficient resources and functions to meet the goals set forth by the Children and Youth Cabinet.

Nationally, approximately 27 states have a council, committee, or group that works to coordinate services among state agencies. Florida is one of eight states that operate a Children's Cabinet supported by the Governor and participates on the Children's Cabinet Network managed by the Forum for Youth Investment (www.forumfyi.org/readyby21/childrens-cabinets). In addition, children cabinets and coordinating bodies have been established within communities across Florida and model their efforts after the Cabinet to achieve positive outcomes for children and youth.

As set forth in Florida Statute 402.56, the Cabinet consists of the membership on the next page as of December 2013.

Membership, Titles and Organizational Representation on the Cabinet

State Positions:

- **Alan Abramowitz**, Statewide Executive Director of the Guardian ad Litem
- **Dr. John Armstrong**, State Surgeon General and Secretary of the Department of Health
- **Elizabeth Dudek**, Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration
- **Zackary Gibson**, Director of the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection and Florida's Chief Child Advocate
- **Shan Goff**, Director of the Office of Early Learning
- **Esther Jacobo**, Interim Secretary of the Department of Children and Families
- **Barbara Palmer**, Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- **Pam Stewart**, Commissioner of the Department of Education
- **Wansley Walters**, Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice

Ex-officio Members:

- **Representative Gayle Harrell** for the Speaker of the House
- **Justice Barbara J. Pariente** for the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court
- **Senator Eleanor Sobel** for the Senate President
- **Berthy de la Rosa-Aponte** for the Attorney General
- **Victoria Zepp** for the Chief Financial Officer
- **Youth Commissioner** for the Florida Youth Commission

Governor Appointees:

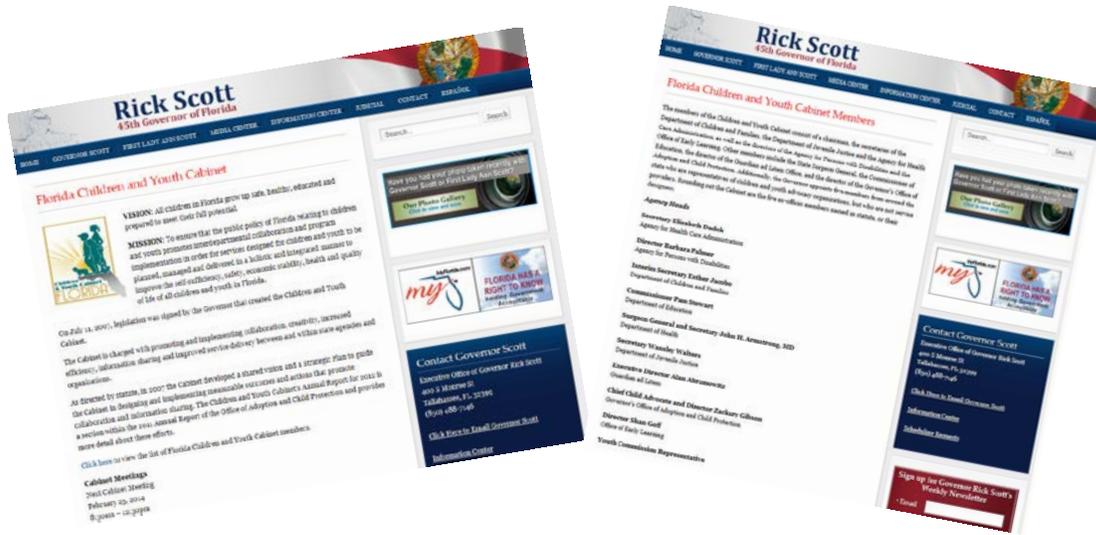
- **Ellen Anderson**, State Advocacy Vice President, Florida Hospital Association
- **Antonia "Toni" Crawford**, Early Learning Advocate
- **David Lawrence Jr.**, Education and Community Leadership Scholar at the University of Miami's School of Education and Human Development; President, The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation; and Chair, The Children's Movement of Florida
- **Dr. Judy Schaechter**, Interim Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine
- **Steven J. Uhlfelder**, Uhlfelder and Associates, PA

Administrative Support and Service

On June 12, 2007, the bill creating the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection (Office) was signed into law. The duties and responsibilities of the Office are enshrined in Florida Statute 39.001. The Office was created for the purpose of establishing, implementing, and monitoring a cross-agency comprehensive statewide approach for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families and prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect. The Office is also tasked with providing administrative support and service to the Cabinet as identified in Florida Statute 402.56.

The Office worked diligently to advance the efforts of the Cabinet. Throughout 2013, Office personnel, to include one full-time employee: Christina Pacelle, MSW (Special Projects Manager), and one part-time employee: Frenchie Yon (Program Support), have provided support through a servant leadership approach. In addition, the Office utilized student interns to assist with many tasks to support the Cabinet throughout the spring, summer, and fall semesters. The Office facilitated and coordinated travel logistics, meals, overnight accommodations, ground transportation, as well as site visits to local community organizations. Additionally, the Office supported the Cabinet through drafting meeting agendas, inviting presenters to speak, and creation of this annual report.

Early in 2013, the Office revamped the Cabinet website found at: www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet to allow for improved user access and navigation. The website can also be found by visiting the Office's main page at www.flgov.com/child_advocacy. All Cabinet meetings, as well as Cabinet Workgroup meetings, are noticed on the Office's Meeting Advisory webpage: http://www.flgov.com/child_advocacy_meetings.



2013 Meetings

In compliance with state law, four Cabinet meetings were held in different regions of the state including: Orlando, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, and Ft. Myers. All meetings were published in the Florida Administrative Register. The public was provided opportunities to address the Cabinet at every meeting and when and where feasible, Cabinet meetings were co-located with other related conferences and workshops around the state to enhance public attendance and participation. When available, meetings were documented by the Florida Channel and various news organizations including Florida Public Radio. In order to ensure the public has complete access and up-to-date information, Cabinet staff has created a webpage at <http://www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet> that contains information about the Cabinet, its members, activities, work products, workgroups, as well as meeting dates and locations.

In addition to adopting a strategic plan to better coordinate children and family services in Florida, the Cabinet has completed or begun work on all nine of its statutorily required duties and responsibilities. Through the leadership of the Cabinet, six workgroups and four initiatives have been identified that are led by Cabinet members with support from agency staff and the Office.

Community Highlights

The Cabinet recognizes and values the many organizations that provide programs and services to positively impact the lives of children and youth across our great state. In an effort to increase awareness of these local programs and services, the Cabinet invited organizations to present an overview on the program(s) or service(s) provided to children and youth, the goals and/or outcomes for the target population, and to hear from leaders and participants on the impact the programs or services have provided.

The following organizations presented information to the Cabinet during scheduled meetings in 2013.



Wraparound Orange – Presented by Anne Marie Sheffield, Project Director, Wraparound Orange is a collaborative community project that has been operational since September 2009 and was inspired by federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This grant incorporates numerous community stakeholders that are working to improve the children’s mental health System of Care. The program “wraps” a child and their family in a system of care that helps them uncover and address root problems, build resiliency, and create natural

community supports that will continue after the child “graduates” from the program. Tomeisha Fisher, a youth advocate for the program, shared her personal story of how she became involved in the program. She informed the Cabinet how the program allowed her to express herself, be confident in who she was, and how it worked to change the stigma associated with mental health. She stated the program provided a support system for her to pursue her goals and dreams, including obtaining her GED. Additionally, she identified that the program has helped individuals understand the meaning of various mental health diagnoses. Since 2011, over 340 families have been provided with wraparound services and resulted in reduced arrests, improved school performance and stability in family functioning.

Children’s Cabinet of Orange County – Presented by Karen Willis, Chair of the Orange County Children’s Cabinet (OCCC) and CEO of the Orange County Early Learning Coalition, the OCCC is a collaboration of 25 organizations that bring a voice to the needs of children in Orange County. The focus of the OCCC is a “Cradle to Career” framework that connects all segments of the developmental continuum to improve educational, economic, and health outcomes. Member organizations are encouraged to forgo politics and individual organizational agendas in order to move from achieving individual success to having a collective, positive impact. In meeting with the local legislative delegation, the OCCC shared their priorities to include orientating state spending to effect improvement on prevention programs, maximizing revenues by drawing down all available federal funds that support children and families, and allowing local government and approved entities to determine the best use of resources and best safeguards to produce outcomes for children. The OCCC’s children’s summit was scheduled for November 2013 with the goal to build a roadmap that aligns children’s services with common goals and metrics.



MY LIFE – Children’s Home Society of Florida – Presented by Charles McDonald, Executive Director of the Children’s Home Society of Florida in Tallahassee. The MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment) program provides youth with opportunities to use their experiences, talents, and voices to make positive changes in their lives while helping others to do the same. The program focuses on youth between the ages of 13 to 23 who have experienced mental health, substance abuse, and/or foster care and juvenile justice

issues. Through regular meetings, special events, local and national workshops, presentations, and performances, participants help to improve the mental health, substance abuse, foster care, and juvenile justice systems. A powerful presentation was delivered by Bethany Nelson who shared her personal story by expressing how the program saved her life and how happy she is to advocate on relieving stigmas related to mental health.

50 LARGE – Leon County Schools – Presented by John Hunkier, Chief of the Leon County Schools Department of Safety and Security, and Larry Thompson, Special Projects Coordinator with Leon County Schools, 50 LARGE is researched-based program and was established to prevent gang involvement of young men (ages 11-19) through funding from a Gang Free Schools and Communities – US Department of Justice grant. “LARGE” stands for **L**ifelong **A**chievement, **R**esponsibility, **G**rowth and **E**ducation. The mission of the program is to inspire hope, mold character, teach responsibility and provide “real” opportunities for young men striving to turn their lives around. A broad base of community partners provides resources and direction to sustain efforts to redirect energies of participants through:



- Department training through reinforcement of basic success formula tenets,
- Academic assistance; targeted tutoring provided by college students,
- Vocation exploration, resume building, networking skills, and employment, and
- Summer Camp; leadership training, financial management, science, civics, and law enforcement relations workshops, local and out of town field trips.

Participants are vetted for inclusion in the program that operates a minimum of twice per week. They learn positive social skills, receive transportation, meals and earn a small stipend for participation and compliance with department standards. Case managers spend quality time with program participants. Substantive relationships with positive male role models are the program’s foundation and key to client success. Anecdotal evidence and post surveys have shown that 75% of program participants are less likely to re-offend and have improved their school performance. The program seeks to expand and replicate this vitally important program to other areas of the state.



Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center – Presented by Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, President and CEO of the Policy Center, the Center was established through a donor designated fund from Delores Barr Weaver, the former co-owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, philanthropist, and long time advocate for the rights and needs of women and girls, to engage communities, organizations and individuals through quality research, community organizing, advocacy, training and model programming to advance the rights of girls and young women, especially those in the justice and child protection systems. The Center focuses on girls and young women in the north Florida area, and those whose life circumstances are likely to lead them into both systems. The Center “sees the girl” for who she is and who she can become. All efforts are grounded in research with a vision for the Jacksonville area to become the model for the nation on how to respond to and create opportunities for girls and young women in the juvenile justice and foster care system. Dr. Ravoira highlighted the *Girls Matter: It’s Elementary* prevention program to help girls improve academic success, stop suspension and expulsion of girls, and the spiraling effect of girls entering the juvenile justice system. As part of the continuum, the Center is also working to develop and implement the *Girls Matter: Coming Home* program to work with girls who are returning from residential commitment.

Girls and young women are the focus due to the violence, exploitation, and victimization they experience that drives their behaviors and of the importance to prevent re-victimization, re-traumatization, and poor outcomes. Dr. Ravoira asked the Cabinet to “see the girl” and to ensure fair, equitable treatment free from violence and exploitation; that they are valued, respected, and can trust the system they are in; and every girl has a systems advocate. She also asked for improved data collection, review of policies, processes, and programs through a gender lens; for a mandate and to fund gender responsive training, including research based gender responsive services; and to break down silos that allow for systems integration.

Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Transportation Program – Presented by Raelyn Means, GAL Circuit 20 Director and Nancy Kuehne, GAL Volunteer, the program has made a dramatic difference in the ability for GAL volunteers to connect with youth. Due to the new ability to transport youth, they shared how they have been able to take youth to extra-curricular activities and expose the children to different experiences. They also shared that GAL volunteers have been able to establish stronger relationships which allowed youth to feel more comfortable opening up and sharing their feelings. Manushka Gilet, a youth who participated in the program, expressed how great the program was. It allowed her to do things such as shopping, which she wasn't always able to do. She also shared how it allowed her to connect more with her GAL volunteer and build trust while riding in the car. Even though she matured beyond foster care, the connection she has with her GAL volunteer has continued because of the relationship that was created and established through this program.



Naples Children & Education Foundation – Presented by Representative Kathleen Passidomo, the Naples Children & Education Foundation aligns with the work of the Cabinet in that all children grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to meet their potential. The Foundation focuses on making a profound and sustaining difference in the lives of children in Collier County. Representative Passidomo acknowledged that government can't do everything in making a difference in the lives of children; it takes neighbors, parents, churches

and schools to come together to make the difference. Linda Richards Malone, Founding Board Member and Co-Chair of the Foundation's annual fundraiser, shared that in 2000, a group of like-minded people came together who wanted to do something for children and established the Naples Winter Wine Festival. With their first event in 2001, the Foundation hoped to raise approximately \$500,000, but they raised \$2.9 million. In the past 13 years, the Foundation has raised over \$110 million dollars that goes directly to the children in Collier County. Based on a needs assessment commissioned by the Foundation, annual grants have been provided to local organizations to serve over 150,000 children in the community. Maria Jimenez, Grants Director for the Foundation, provided an overview of the needs assessment that took place which helped identify seven strategic initiatives: pediatric oral health, early learning, children's mental health, children's healthcare, out of school time services, vision, and childhood hunger.

The Cabinet presented the Naples Children & Education Foundation with a leadership award in recognition for supporting programming to improve the physical, emotional, and educational lives of Florida's children.



From left to right: David Lawrence, Interim Secretary Esther Jacobo, Representative Kathleen Passidomo, Chief Child Advocate and Director Zackary Gibson, Director Shan Goff, Representative Gayle Harrell, Director Alan Abramowitz, Linda Richards Malone, Berthy de la Rosa-Aponte, Victoria Zepp and Toni Crawford

First Quarterly Meeting

The first meeting of the Cabinet in 2013 was held on January 31, 2013 at Orlando City Hall, in Orlando, Florida. Below are highlights of the meeting.



- Mayor Buddy Dyer of the City of Orlando welcomed the Cabinet and shared how the city emphasizes children and education issues even though they aren't always considered municipal functions. A number of initiatives were shared including: the Parramore Kids Zone, afterschool and summer programs with comprehensive academic requirements in all city recreation centers and seven middle schools in the city; partnered with the school district to prevent summer learning loss; and expanded the summer feeding program to be year-round.
- Director Shan Goff with the Office of Early Learning was introduced and welcomed as a new member to the Cabinet. Tony Bennett, the new Commissioner with the Department of Education and Senator Eleanor Sobel were introduced, even though they could not attend the meeting in person.
- Community highlights were presented from the Wraparound Orange program and the Orange County Children's Cabinet.
- Cabinet members provided their Agency Legislative Priorities in preparation of the 2013 Legislative Session.
- Two Workgroup Updates were provided on:
 - *Human Trafficking* – The Cabinet agreed to transition the workgroup to an operational activity to be led by the Department of Juvenile Justice.
 - *Children and Youth Collaboration Services Workgroup* – An overview of the workgroup and proposal to establish a pilot program to allow for administrative flexibilities were provided. The Cabinet felt legislation may be needed to allow for specific flexibilities to be offered. The workgroup was encouraged to conduct additional research and present information at a future Cabinet meeting.
- Five additional presentations were provided on the following topics:
 - *Youth Commission Political Advocacy Toolkit* – The toolkit was created to help youth throughout the state establish their own youth commissions to identify issues and assemble to bring about change. The toolkit was made available online and was encouraged to be sent to the Department of Education and disseminated throughout school districts so additional youth may get involved in the political process. The Youth Commission was challenged to present an issue to the Cabinet that could be considered for future legislation. An invitation to Children's Week was provided to the Cabinet.
 - *Human Trafficking Collaboration Update* – Information on the role of the new Human Trafficking Advocate was provided to include communicating the state's human trafficking strategies, assisting with the collaboration efforts across the state, offering creative ideas, and raising awareness and education about human trafficking. An overview was provided on vulnerable populations, state rankings, as well as working with the Department of Education to educate teachers. It was suggested to review the work that Bill McCullum had done on the topic. Additional information was shared on the human trafficking workgroup to include membership evaluation, engagement of other agencies, and expansion to focus on labor trafficking. The Department of Juvenile Justice had provided training to all probation officers and continues the victim identification pilot, which provides tools to identify victimization. The next Human Trafficking Summit was being planned for the fall 2013 and caters to service providers, law enforcement, and legal professionals that focus on labor and sex trafficking. Emphasis will be on multidisciplinary training. The legislature is looking broadly at this

topic by passing a bill related to licensure, operating times, and living accommodations within massage parlors.

- *Access to Health Care* – An overview was provided on KidCare, a program which provides healthcare for families earning more than the Medicaid threshold would allow, but not enough to afford healthcare for their family. Since 2011, Florida has reduced the number of children without insurance from 18-20% to 11.9%; however the national average is 7.5%. Last year, Florida was third state in the nation at reducing the number of uninsured children. The Affordable Care Act will require all children have insurance with families at 133% and below the federal poverty level participating in Medicaid. A barrier identified to children receiving insurance is a lack of adequate funding for outreach. However, utilizing community outreach, technology and support from state agencies and leaders has helped. While new children are enrolled each month, many still are lost due to not renewing or not making premium payments. Other barriers include some populations ineligible through the state, ability to draw down federal funding, and cultural and language barriers. Efforts to increase enrollment include going to where children are (e.g., early learning coalitions, schools), a simplified application, creating automation and data matches to a list of benefits families may be eligible for, creating “presumptive eligibility” where temporary eligibility is determined when initial services are provided, and expanding eligibility to legal immigrants. KidCare is also working to increase retention by conducting surveys to identify challenges.
- *Florida’s Foster Care Plan* – Information was presented on the Department of Children and Families new foster care plan – Fostering Florida’s Future. This initiative brought various stakeholders together to address the needs of children in care and sought to recruit 1,200 new, quality foster parents. The goals were to establish an awareness campaign, identify a family for every child, establish a quality parenting initiative, allow children in foster care be children, and to look at transitions between placements for children.
- *Mental Health and School Safety* – An overview was provided on offices within the Department of Education and school level personnel who are responsible for working to address mental health issues. Statistics identified schools as one of the safest environments for children with fewer than 2% of homicides and 1% of suicides occurring at school. Approximately 20% of youth have a diagnosable mental health concern and of this population, 10% have serious emotional issues that impair functioning. With nearly 2.7 million public school children, more than 500,000 have some mental health concern, of which approximately 10% have serious issues. The Florida Adolescent Mental Health fact sheet showed that 65,000 Florida students have been identified with significant social-emotional and/or behavioral impairments which may require mental health supports. According to the Department of Health, suicide was the second leading cause of death for ages 5-14, and the third leading cause of death for ages 15-24. Currently in place to address mental health and school safety from an educational perspective includes a continuum of support where level of support is matched to student need, and district level supports provided by credentialed professionals. Training is provided to schools and interagency collaboration occurs through systems of care. Challenges include policies, identification of children, resource allocation, mental health professional development opportunities and fragmented services. Future considerations include requiring district to develop a comprehensive student services plan, use student service personnel to provide school based mental health prevention and early intervention, and utilizing a systems of care approach for interagency coordination.

After the Cabinet meeting, a scheduled site visit to the Orlando Child Advocacy Center was taken to learn about work and services provided to the children and youth in the community.

Second Quarterly Meeting

The second meeting of the Cabinet was held on April 9, 2013 at the Florida Capitol, Governor's Cabinet Meeting Room, in Tallahassee, Florida. Highlights of the meeting are provided below.



- Senator Eleanor Sobel and Commissioner Tony Bennett, Department of Education, were introduced and welcomed as new members to the Cabinet.
- Community highlights were presented from the MY LIFE and 50 LARGE programs.
- Commissioner Adam Putnam of the Department of Agriculture provided a presentation entitled Nutrition and Wellness for Florida's Children and offered the support of the Department of Agriculture as a partner to the Cabinet. Information was presented on the school nutrition program and an initiative called *Eat to Compete*. This initiative allows professional athletes to visit schools and discuss eating healthy, staying fit, and having a balanced life. The Summer Break Spot program was highlighted and offers meals to youth during the summer months, and information on the efforts to work in inner cities to eliminate food deserts where individuals and families don't have access to healthy food in their communities.
- Commissioner Bennett provided an overview on the Department of Education's vision and priorities. Information was shared on a proposal to consider investing more on teachers to improve quality at an amount of \$2,500, implementation of new standards and assessments, implementation of teacher effectiveness measures and performance based compensation, and renewal of the Florida Mentoring Partnership, starting with Leon County Schools.
- The Cabinet was provided with crosswalks that show the alignment of Workgroups to the Cabinet Focus Areas, Headline Indicators, and Strategic Plan. A request was made to have these crosswalks provided at each meeting.
- Five Workgroup Updates were provided on:
 - *Multi-System Children and Youth* – Progress was shared that stemmed from a Memorandum of Understanding signed by agency leaders, which established state, regional, and local teams to address issues related to children served by more than one agency. Through this approach, a majority of issues have been addressed at the local level through effective collaboration between involved agencies.
 - *Crossover Children* – Information was presented on issues relating to children who are involved in both the dependency and delinquency systems. An overview was provided on current legislation which proposes to establish a pilot program to serve these children. In addition, other bills are working in concert with the proposed legislation for crossover children to include the Normalcy bill and Independent Living bill.
 - *Effective Early Childcare Delivery* – Areas of focus were discussed to include the building blocks to achieve outcomes for college and career readiness, state standards, and accountability that measures and informs what is effective. The Cabinet encouraged the workgroup to narrow the focus on what could be measured, implemented, and enhanced as needed. The name of the workgroup was changed to the Early Learning Workgroup.
 - *Intervening in the At-Risk Cycle* – An overview was provided on the discussion of Intervening in the At-Risk Cycle that led to issue of bullying. Information was presented on bullying's psychological impact and how it aligns to the Cabinet headline indicators. The Cabinet voted to establish Bullying as a workgroup to replace Intervening in the At-Risk Cycle workgroup. A presentation was requested for the next meeting on the scope and approach to address this issue.
 - *Prevention Investment* – Information was shared on how the workgroup looked at three levels of prevention: preventing children coming into the system, preventing children from moving deeper into the system, and preventing children from returning in the

system. The workgroup will also look at various resources, inventory various prevention programs in place, and consider how to process map where funds and resources are being allocated. Agencies were requested to identify staff that could be available to participate in the process. It was also suggested the workgroup identify potential duplication and best practices where efforts could be expanded. Additional work will continue with a presentation to be provided at a future Cabinet meeting.

Third Quarterly Meeting

The third meeting of the Cabinet was held on July 25, 2013 at the University of North Florida, Osprey Commons, in Jacksonville, Florida. Secretary Walters with the Department of Juvenile Justice served as the Interim Chair and highlights of the meeting are provided below.



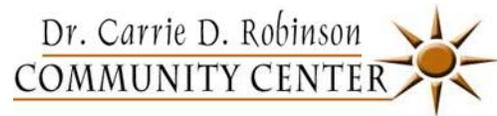
- Upcoming events were shared to include the Child Protection Summit, Human Trafficking Summit, and National Faith Symposium.
- The Florida Youth Commission provided an update on the commission's project to provide presentations to schools and youth groups on the topics of bullying, appropriate uses of technology, decision-making, choices, and consequences.
- Reviewed agency end-of-year highlights.
- Progress update provided on the Multi-Systems Children and Youth Workgroup.
- A community highlight was presented by the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center. The presentation from Mayor Alvin Brown with the City of Jacksonville was cancelled due to the scheduling conflict.
- A Workgroup Update was provided on:
 - *Early Learning* – An overview of the workgroup membership was provided and two recommendations were shared – the first is to have a statewide outreach approach to parents and others that provides highly localized information, is internet based, available via telephone in multiple languages and has a strong marketing effort. A gap analysis will occur to determine the best approach moving forward. The second recommendation is to improve access to high quality early learning providers by having the state pursue incentives (e.g., tax breaks, additional funds, leveraging local and state dollars) for high impact providers to deliver services in high need areas or enterprise zones so children, who are typically disadvantaged and have the least access to quality early learning, will have a mechanism that can enable them to come to school ready to learn. In addition, areas are being considered to align early learning to Common Core so there is a continuum to college and career readiness.
- Updates from the 2013 Legislative Session were provided by agency leaders and designees, and by House and Senate representatives.
- Information was presented on the Florida Mentoring Partnership to include the creation of a website and email address to provide information and an avenue to ask questions, an upcoming training for mentor contacts is being scheduled, and that a number of agencies are participating in this initiative. It was suggested for a mentoring kit to be developed that could be shared with others to enable this initiative to be in all areas of the state. Another suggestion was to consider including mentoring as part of vendor contracts.
- A presentation was provided on a bullying initiative that included information on current state law, district requirements, statistics, and what the Cabinet could do to bring additional attention to this issue. Information was also provided from the Monique Burr Foundation, which provides an elementary curriculum that includes information on bullying. Perspective was shared from the Department of Education on how schools are still struggling to address bullying, how to build a culture where it is easily and safely reported, and dealt with appropriately. Perspective was also provided on engaging youth at an early age and working with parents on expected behaviors. A

suggestion was to develop PSAs to further raise the awareness on bullying and to consider grouping bullying with other issues focusing on unhealthy environments; this could strengthen the message the Cabinet wants to get across to communities. Additionally, what role agencies would have on this issue and how the Youth Commission could help in this effort should be considered. This topic will be presented at a future Cabinet meeting.

- A presentation from the National Association of Social Workers – Florida Chapter was provided to request state agency representatives to participate in a consortium to identify opportunities where schools of social work can better prepare graduates to meet work requirements and expectations of state agencies employing social workers. The Cabinet agreed and committed to identifying appropriate staff to participate.

Fourth Quarterly Meeting

The fourth meeting of the Cabinet was held on October 24, 2013 at the Dr. Carrie Robinson Center in Ft. Myers, Florida. Director Abramowitz with Guardian ad Litem served as Interim Chair and highlights of the meeting are provided below.



- Victoria Zepp, Ellen Anderson, and Interim Secretary Esther Jacobo, with the Department of Children and Families, were introduced and welcomed to the Cabinet.
- Upcoming events were shared to include National Adoption Month, the National Faith Symposium, and the Workforce Consortium of Professional Social Workers and State Agencies.
- Members were asked to provide information regarding workgroup activities to the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection for inclusion in the 2013 Cabinet Annual Report.
- A letter provided by Surgeon General John Armstrong, Secretary of the Department of Health, regarding an update on the Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative, the release of the Department of Health *Year in Review 2012-13*, and the launch of the new electronic benefit transfer system for the Women, Infants and Children program was reviewed.
- A copy of the Guardian ad Litem Program 2013 Status Report, *A Voice Heard: Building Trust and Hope*, was provided to Cabinet members for their review.
- Community highlights were presented on the Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Transportation Program and the Naples Children and Education Foundation.
- A progress update was provided on the Multi-Systems Children and Youth Workgroup.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice provided an update from the 2013 Human Trafficking Summit.
- Interim Secretary Jacobo provided an update on the Safe Sleep Campaign, Extension of Foster Care and the New Safety Framework. A copy of the Casey Family Programs *Review of Florida Safety Model and Front-End Assessment Tools* and a letter to the Florida Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics regarding issues related to the management of information on child fatalities reported to DCF were provided to the Cabinet for review.
- A presentation of the Florida State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care was provided that highlighted initiatives and achievements.
- A presentation was provided on trauma and toxic stress that referenced the Adverse Childhood Experiences study and impacts on early childhood brain development. It was shared that trauma crosses all agencies and services provided to vulnerable populations. It was proposed to have an advisory council established that could serve as a research arm of the Cabinet and assist in creating awareness, assessment tools, and opportunities to refine, improve, and strengthen programs and services. The Cabinet discussed its importance and will look to include the topic on a future meeting agenda.

Workgroups of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (as of December 2013)

Child Death Data Review Teams Workgroup

In January 2013, members of the workgroup met with representatives from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Department of Health (DOH) to review proposed language for statutory changes to applicable recommendations presented to the Cabinet. Through discussions, proposed legislation was developed and additional approaches were identified to initiate support of the recommendations. A summary regarding each recommendation presented by the workgroup is provided below.

- The recommendation to expand the state child death review process to allow review of all deaths of children up to 18 years of age (Recommendation #1 – Part 1) has been a longstanding recommendation of the State Child Abuse Death Review Committee. Through presentations made to the Cabinet and discussions between DCF and DOH, it was determined that an expansion of child death reviews to include all deaths reported to DCF would have significant fiscal impact. As such, both agencies will continue exploring opportunities that could allow for a cost effective approach to conducting such reviews. The State and Local Child Abuse Death Review Committees utilize the US National Child Death Review database to input data from their child death reviews. (Recommendation #1 – Part 2).
- The Protect Our Kids Act as filed in the US Senate was signed into law on January 14, 2013 and established a commission to provide recommendations. Part of the Act supports increased understanding of deaths from child abuse and neglect and can lead to improvement in agency systems and practices to protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect. This coincides with the mission of the State Child Abuse Death Review Committee. Based on the report that will be developed by the commission, it will be reviewed to identify ways Florida can adhere to the recommendations (Recommendation #2).
- The recommendation to support the reinstatement of the Sunshine Law exemption that allows child death case reviews to be conducted without being subject to video or audio recording was sponsored by Senator Altman and Representative Harrell (Recommendation #3). The bill that was moved forward was eventually vetoed due to legal counsel concerns related to confidentiality provisions.
- DCF and DOH scheduled a series of meetings between the State Child Abuse Death Review Committee, the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review program, the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review program and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review teams to share information and data about their respective reviews. This effort can continue in lieu of statutory revisions that support joint meetings of various death review teams to identify trends for effective child death prevention activities (Recommendation #4).
- In 2013, DCF and DOH, along with various public-private partnerships, launched the *Safe Sleep Campaign* to raise awareness on preventing child deaths due to unsafe sleeping environments. This campaign encouraged the public and businesses to donate pack-n-plays (portable cribs) to designated locations for distribution to needy families throughout the state. This campaign supports Florida's death review teams' goal of preventing child deaths (Recommendation #5). Agencies, along with Florida's death review teams, will continue to identify additional opportunities to leverage public-private partnerships that advance their goals.
- The State Child Abuse Death Review Committee has long recognized a lack of uniformity among investigative agencies in the thoroughness of the investigations performed in cases and a lack of consistency among Florida's medical examiners in the terminology used to certify the cause and manner of death. The Florida Medical Examiners Commission adopted changes to the Annual Workload Report that is prepared by each of Florida's examiner districts, effective January 1, 2014, which will facilitate the collection of data to enable the State Committee to make data-driven recommendations, particularly for safe infant sleeping and identify emerging trends that can lower child death rates. In addition, the DOH will continue to explore opportunities to inform and educate medical examiners about the needs of the death review process. (Support of

Recommendation #6). Additionally, once medical examiners begin to use ICD-10-CM medical coding, information derived from death records can be used by Florida's death review teams to further inform trends and strategies to prevent child deaths. As mentioned previously, State and local Child Death Review Committees are utilizing the US National Child Death Review database to input data from their child death reviews.

- Many state agencies take advantage of the wealth of academic expertise provided by state university programs. The DCF continues to contract with the University of South Florida to provide child protection pre-service training curricula and the Cabinet supported the creation of the Social Work Consortium to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership with state agencies and community organizations to increase the utilization of social work workforce, education, and research in Florida. Topics of discussion from the initial meeting included the social work workforce in Florida, state agencies workforce and research needs, workforce and research information from the schools of social work, and workforce and research contributions from state social work organizations. These efforts can support the goals of Florida's death review teams to prevent child deaths (Recommendation #7).

Continued review and assessment of the recommendations provided by the Child Death Data Review Workgroup will be led by the DOH, in collaboration with other state agencies, to determine the most effective approach to achieve the goals of Florida's death review teams and for the prevention of future child deaths.

Collaboration Services Workgroup

During the 2013 year, the Collaboration Services Workgroup continued its work to create a plan for improved coordination across program and service delivery systems statewide. Chair Alan Abramowitz continued to lead the workgroup to the full realization of statewide cost-effective, efficient and streamlined community service delivery models through the application of the concepts adopted from:

- The Collective Impact Approach
- The Florida Chamber's Six Pillars of Florida's Future Economy
- The Florida Framework for Florida's Families and Children

During the January 2013 Children and Youth Cabinet meeting held in Orlando, Chair Abramowitz co-presented the workgroup's recommendations with Dr. Brittany Birken, CEO of the Florida Children's Council. The following recommendations, which generated rich-discussion and direction from members to continue the work through proposed pilots, were presented.

Collaboration Services Workgroup Recommendations:

- By using the indicators set forth by the Cabinet, communities will organize and demonstrate how they will collectively work toward desired outcomes by eliminating duplication and seeking efficiencies in service delivery using proven or promising practices driven by data.
- The Cabinet shall create a Barrier Buster Workgroup, comprised of staff from each of the Cabinet member agencies, charged with providing support and guidance to communities on barriers to efficient and effective community planning, strategies for effectively integrating funding streams to expand services, and identifying efficiencies.
- The Cabinet shall create a Florida Master Plan Workgroup, comprised of staff from each of the Cabinet member agencies, charged with developing criteria for the creation of one comprehensive plan to be used by all local organizations that receive state and federal funds for children, youth and family support services. It also seeks to address reporting requirements mandated by the state through a back bone organization.
- The Cabinet's statutory language shall be amended to grant the Cabinet the specific authority to issue waivers to community organizations in order to relieve requirements of certain mandated state reports.

- The Cabinet shall create a common identifier for children that is universal across all state agencies, resulting in efficiencies to include costs savings and streamlined processes of data collection and sharing.
- The Cabinet shall identify innovation zones in communities across Florida to demonstrate the effectiveness of community planning in each of the following areas: prenatal to 8, age 9 through graduation and successful transition to higher education/employment/military service, and tertiary support systems.

The goal is to launch pilot projects in communities across the state to document and demonstrate where they can plan and coordinate efforts to improve service delivery systems that satisfy a wide range of family needs. These include access to quality prenatal health care, quality early learning programs, developmental screening, and youth job placement. Chair Abramowitz has continued to work with the Florida Children’s Council, which represents the collective efforts of local Children’s Services Council (CSC) organizations statewide. Florida is the only state in the nation with a unique law allowing for the creation of county CSC organizations, which primarily fund prevention and early intervention programs for children, youth and families.

A major component of the Collective Impact Approach is having a back bone organization that provides direction, facilitates effective dialogue between partners, manages data collection and analysis, and coordinates community outreach. Local CSCs serve this function in communities; therefore, they are the ideal organizations to launch pilot projects aimed at documenting the strengths and weaknesses of local service delivery models. At least three CSCs will participate in the project and pilot concepts ranging from streamlining background screening requirements to program eligibility requirements and blending funding streams. The pilot projects will demonstrate how local systems can maximize resources, remove barriers of state and/or federal regulations that limit coordination, and improve services. Participating CSCs will create a community approved planned with a vision for achieving their goals. The second goal of the workgroup is to draft and pass legislation that grants flexibility to these pilot communities for improved coordination. The workgroup intends to work with experienced advocates interested in securing private funds to ensure services to children, youth and their families are improved, expanded and accessible. This legislation will create an opportunity for local communities to benefit from flexibilities in state and federal rules and regulations.

Over the next year, the participating CSC organizations will work with partners to develop community approved plans by summer 2014. Furthermore, the workgroup plans to file proposed legislation to support other local pilots during the 2015 legislative session. The workgroup will provide progress updates to the Cabinet as both the pilot projects and proposed legislation continue to evolve and develop.

Crossover Children Workgroup

Through the leadership of Representative Harrell, Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Wansley Walters, and leadership at the Department of Children and Families, a collaborative effort between the agencies was initiated to focus on youth who were involved in both the delinquency and dependency system, otherwise known as “crossover children”. Approximately 900 youth were identified as “crossover children,” of which approximately 120 youth were identified as in need of intense services through analysis of the populations served by the two agencies. Representative Harrell held a hearing of the Healthy Families Sub-committee in the Florida House of Representatives focused on “crossover children” and the unique challenges these children face. Opportunities were explored to blend services of both agencies in order to better serve this population and to prevent youth from ending up in the Department of Corrections system as adults.

As a result of the hearing, HB 7103 and SB 1834 were developed to create a pilot program specifically targeting the needs of “crossover children.” The bills required the Department of Children and Families,

in consultation with the Department of Juvenile Justice, to establish a pilot program to serve “crossover children” in need of intense services. The pilot would be housed in a circuit with a unified family court. The Department of Juvenile Justice would provide an in-kind contribution for staff training, and information would be solicited from Community Based Care lead agencies to identify creative approaches to serve the children and to achieve measurable results. In addition, a unified case plan would be created to further facilitate collaboration between the agencies. The pilot would have required safeguards by the housing provider to minimize any negative influence on other foster children involved in the program. Within six months from the launch of the pilot, a report would be provided to the Legislature on the progress with program implementation. After one year, a report would be provided on the progress of the pilot toward meeting measurable outcomes.

Both bills were passed by the respective House and Senate sub-committees but died in other committees. A House bill will be submitted, and a Senate sponsor identified, for the 2014 Legislative session.

Early Learning Workgroup

Recognizing that the early years of a child’s life are the most important for healthy development, the workgroup established a central focus to guide its efforts towards proposing recommendations that will have real benefits to children and families. During the initial meeting, members agreed this focus should be on a simple, yet critical question, “What is best for the child?” Members also agreed to put forth a handful of recommendations that may involve statutory changes and request(s) for additional funding. With this in mind, members identified four basic themes to consider:

- 1) Alignment for college and career – Understanding that what happens with and for children in the earliest years can lead to excellence throughout the school years, and how this understanding fits with the years where children are expected to achieve State Standards;
- 2) Quality control – Real quality leads to excellent outcomes for children;
- 3) Access for the most disadvantaged children, and children with special needs and disabilities; and
- 4) Parent skill-building and engagement – How to fully involve parents and develop their skills to do the best for and by their children.

A variety of issues and questions were raised and challenged members to think broadly on topics and strategies that could improve student performance. The workgroup convened its second meeting and through thoughtful discussion, narrowed its scope to two recommendations:

- Create a statewide outreach approach to give parents, and others, highly credible and highly localized information on where to obtain assistance on matters such as health insurance, quality child care and other consumer information (giving parents the best possible information to raise children who will be successful in school and in life). Information would be internet based, localized for each of Florida’s 67 counties, and made available in three languages via 2-1-1 lines at any hour of the day or night. This would include an omnipresent “marketing” campaign to increase awareness of information available to parents when they are in need. For example, one generally thinks about child care only when in need of such.
- In an effort to improve schools via greater access to high-quality early learning opportunities, the state would pursue incentives for high-impact early learning providers in the highest-need areas. The intent would be to increase access and align the quality of early learning with the outcomes of state standards.

It was understood by the members these two items would require significant work and understanding before they could be implemented, including a process of genuine listening to perspectives from many constituents. It was also shared these items align with the Cabinet’s Strategic Plan.

The third meeting of the workgroup brought together a collection of organizational representatives that shared information on the types of resources they make available to parents and how they partner with

other organizations. Several web demonstrations were presented including information presented on the 2-1-1 system in Florida and how it operates and interacts with the national 2-1-1 system. The group explored challenges and successes based on their experiences related to resource directories, with a suggestion that the Office of Early Learning could house such as directory. The group also discussed outreach efforts to inform those who could benefit most, as well as costs associated with different forms of media and advertising. A suggestion was to have focus groups around the state or conduct a statewide survey to best determine how to address the needs and issues of Florida's families.

From this, a statewide parent skill-building initiative was established. This initiative is a comprehensive resource that aggregates information from numerous state and local agencies (e.g., the Office of Early Learning, the Department of Children and Families, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Health, Early Learning Coalitions) to provide the user with a one-stop experience. It will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and in multiple languages. It will be highly localized – with information specific to county or community – but accessible via one common number, website and mobile platform. Funding for the initiative will be proposed to the Governor via the Office of Early Learning.

Multi-System Children and Youth Workgroup

Since its execution in October 2012, the Interagency Agreement to Coordinate Services for Children Served by More than One Agency has provided the support and infrastructure to help resolve challenging cases so that children and their families receive necessary and appropriate services in a timely manner. The Review Teams serve to ensure cases involving more than one agency do not languish at a local level if additional assistance is needed to assist in resolution. The review and referral process has proven to be successful in fully engaging the participating agencies in the resolution of difficult cases by facilitating and bolstering true collaboration among agencies.

In this first year of implementation, Local, Regional and State Review Teams were formed with active representation from each of the eight participating agencies. Information sharing and technical assistance continues to take place. Review Teams at all levels are actively engaged and report on team activities, referrals and resolution of cases.

Updates:

- Local, Regional and State Review Teams continued to meet monthly or more often if a case required immediate attention.
- Regular reports are provided on numbers of cases referred and resolved by teams at different levels.
- Review teams have begun reporting the specific agencies involved in a case.
 - This information will serve to track initial trends to assist in the identification of future needs and system changes.

Chart 1. Referrals to Local Review Teams January – September 2013

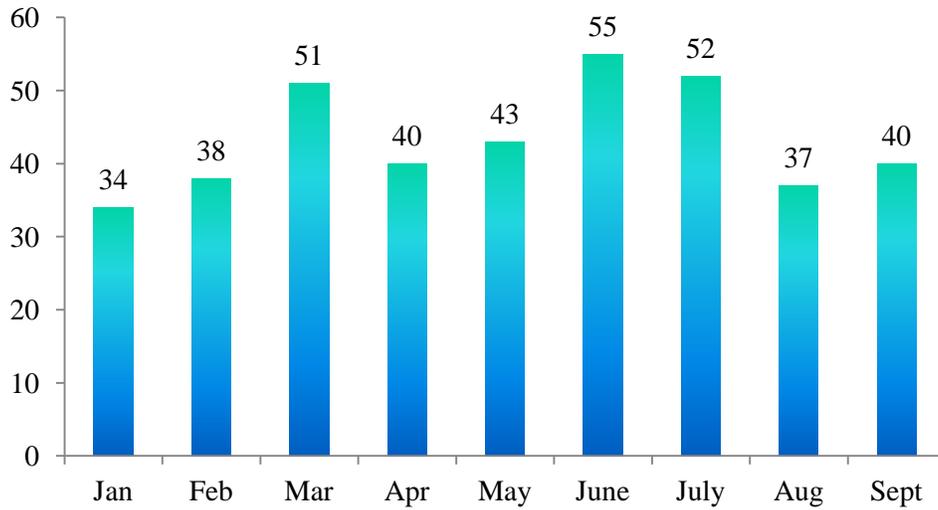
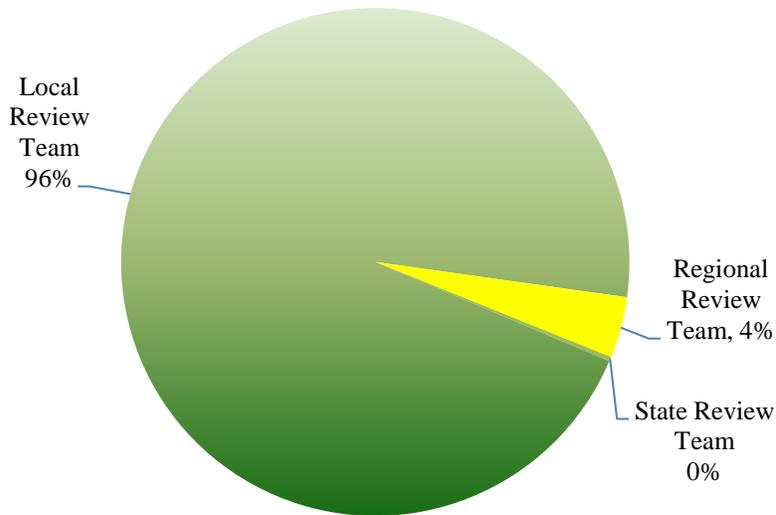
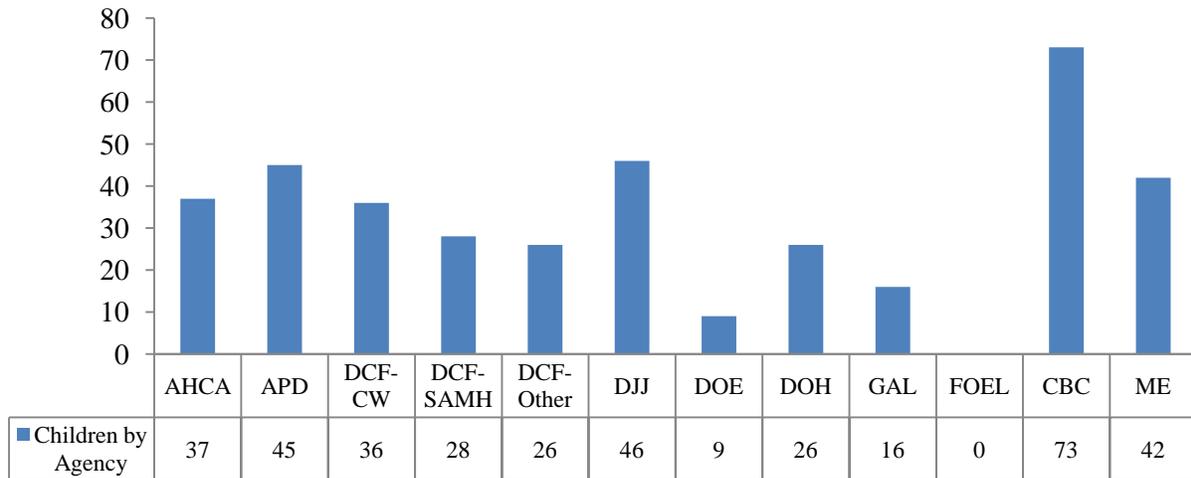


Chart 2. Cases Resolved by Local, Regional, and State Review Teams January – September 2013



Recently, review teams began recording information on the agencies involved in specific cases. The chart on the next page reflects the first two months of this information.

Chart 3. Agency Involvement in Referred Cases August – September 2013



Prevention Investment Strategy Workgroup

Co-Chaired by Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Wansley Walters and Agency for Persons with Disabilities Director Barbara Palmer, the Prevention Investment Strategy Workgroup had several goals for 2013, including:

- Assessing other state’s efforts to develop a children’s budget to inform how Florida may create its own budget framework.
- Developing a glossary of terms and definitions that each agency will use to describe where state funds are being allocated and how they are used.
- Developing categories where funds are allocated that are uniform across each health and human service agency.

The workgroup was able to accomplish:

1. The development of a Resource Guide that encompasses all of the programs within each Cabinet Agency; it includes:
 - a. A description of individual program,
 - b. An amount of funding and FTEs allotted for each initiative, and
 - c. A glossary of terms and definitions.
2. The development of an Interagency Prevention Investment Children’s Issues Matrix:
 - a. Educates on how issues are integrated among the Cabinet Agencies.

Moving forward, the workgroup plans to:

1. Review and update the resource directory every six months.
2. Consider Financial Investment: A different agency requests financial support each year, from the legislature, to market the resource directory.

Initiatives of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

Headline Indicators on Child Well-being

The mission of the Cabinet is to improve the well-being of Florida's children and their families. Four areas were established as a priority focus for the 13 key child well-being indicators that the Cabinet identified as most important. The Cabinet has worked to target its efforts and resources in these areas in order to improve Florida outcomes related to these indicators. The four areas of focus are:

1. **Every Florida child is healthy.**
2. **Every Florida child is ready to learn and succeed.**
3. **Every Florida child has a stable and nurturing family.**
4. **Every Florida child lives in a safe and supportive community.**

In 2009, the Children's Summit Workgroup provided the Cabinet *The State of Florida's Child Report*, from which the 13 key indicators originated. The report provided an objective knowledge base to support the Cabinet in its mission to improve outcomes for our state's children and families, and provided data and information from which the Cabinet can move toward its stated goal of promoting increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all government agencies that provide services for children and their families in Florida. The baseline data in the report closely relates to indicators (or outcomes) shown by research to signify child well-being or improvement in child well-being. These indicators may be used to form a "results based" framework leading to shared goals and a cohesive vision for child and youth outcomes. Ultimately, the results framework can be linked to resources and state budgets.

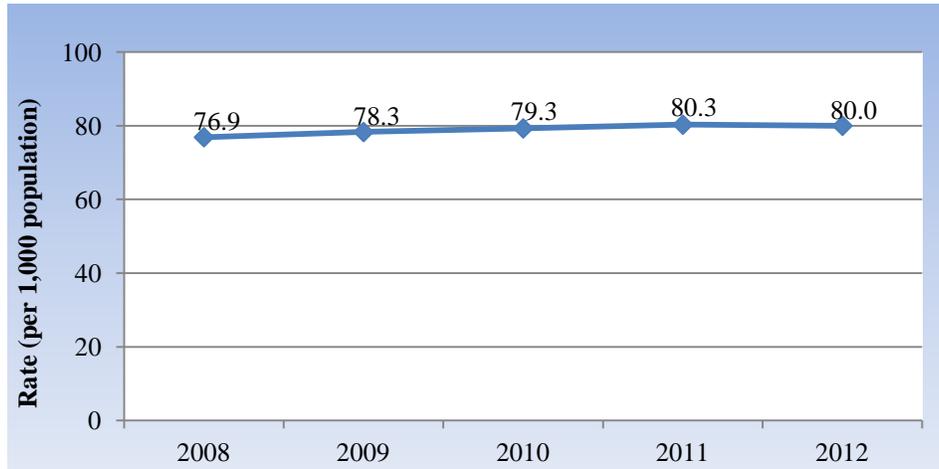
As a result of the Strategic Planning Meeting in December 2012, the Cabinet restructured the approach to the headline indicators. Instead of focusing on select headline indicators identified by the original Cabinet, the Cabinet decided to have Cabinet members lead each of the focus areas and their corresponding headline indicators. Information on the following pages reflects the most current data from the identified data source related to each headline indicator.

Area of Focus: Every Florida child is healthy

Headline Indicator 1.1: Mothers beginning prenatal care in the first trimester

Indicator definition: Rate of live births with prenatal care beginning in the first trimester per 1,000 population.

Graph 1. Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester

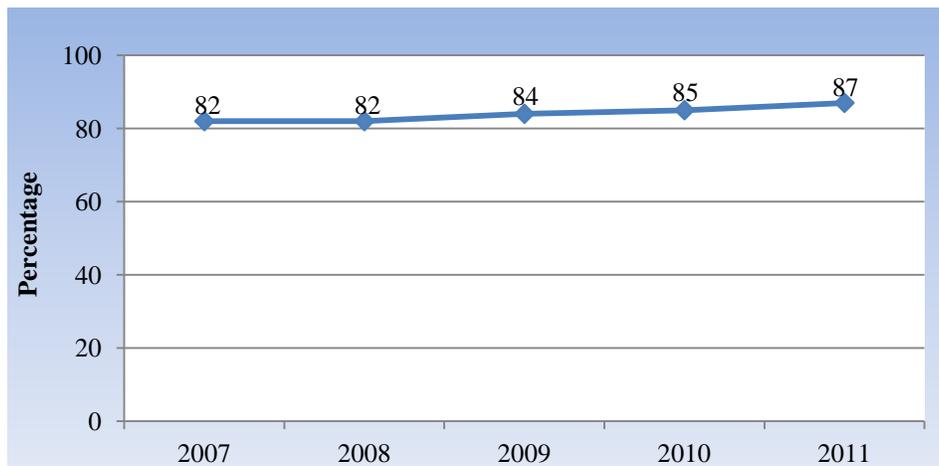


Source: FloridaCHARTS (www.floridacharts.com)

Headline Indicator 1.2: Children with Health Insurance

Indicator definition: Children under age 18 that were not covered by health insurance at any point during the year. Percentages identified were inverted to reflect the percentage with health insurance at any point during the year. Health insurance includes private sector insurance generally provided through work, as well as insurance provided through the public sector, such as Medicare and Medicaid. Children receiving health insurance through a variety of new State Health Insurance Programs (as applicable) are counted as having health insurance.

Graph 2. Children with Health Insurance

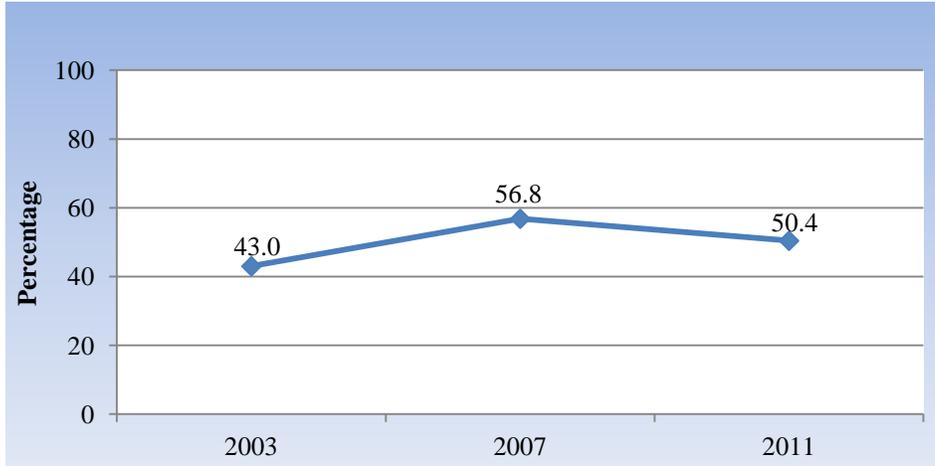


Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (March supplement) provided by the National KIDSCOUNT (www.kidscount.org)

Headline Indicator 1.3: Children with a Medical Home

Indicator definition: Percentage of children ages 0-17 who receive health care aligned to the Academy of Pediatrics' qualities essential to medical home care: accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate and culturally effective.

Graph 3. Children with a Medical Home



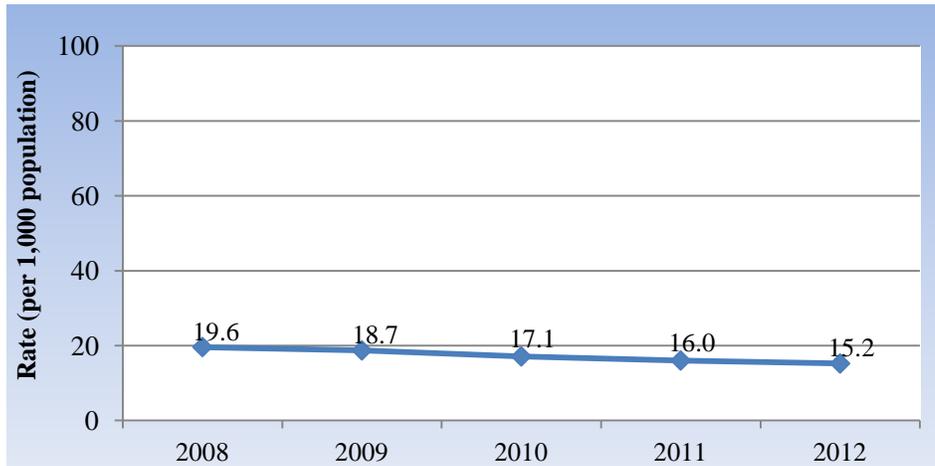
Source: 2003, 2007 and 2011 National Survey of Children's Health (<http://childhealthdata.org>)

Area of Focus: Every Florida Child is Ready to Learn and Succeed

Headline Indicator 2.1: Birth to Women with Fewer than 12 years of Education

Indicator definition: Rate of births to mothers without a high school education per 1,000 population.

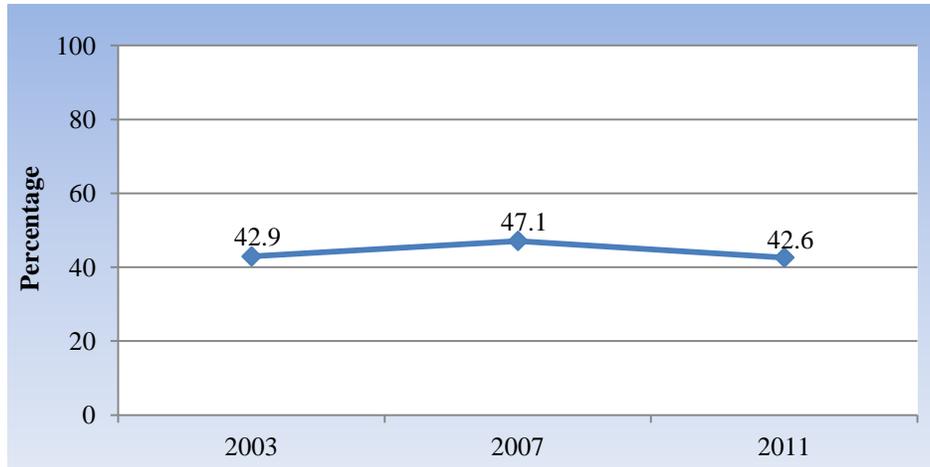
Graph 4. Birth to Women with Fewer than 12 years of Education



Source: FloridaCHARTS (www.floridacharts.com)

Headline Indicator 2.2: Children who are Read to by their Parents or Relative Caregivers
Indicator definition: Percentage of children ages 0-5 whose family members read stories to them on a daily basis.

Graph 5. Children who are Read to by their Parents or Relative Caregivers

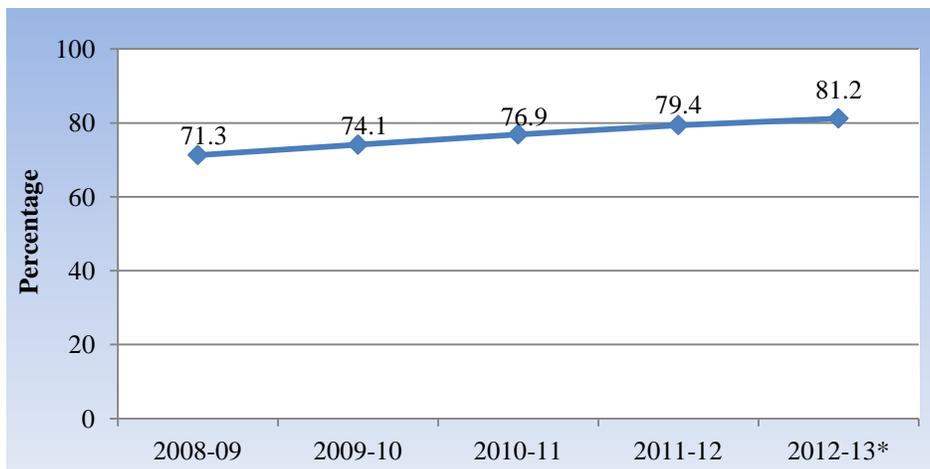


Source: 2003, 2007 and 2011 National Survey of Children’s Health (<http://childhealthdata.org>)

Headline Indicator 2.3: Children whose Kindergarten Entry Assessment Scores Show they are Ready for School

Indicator definition: Includes only children who are VPK Completers that completed 70% or more of their enrolled program and were scored on both the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) and the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR).

Graph 6. Children whose Kindergarten Entry Assessment Scores Show they are Ready for School



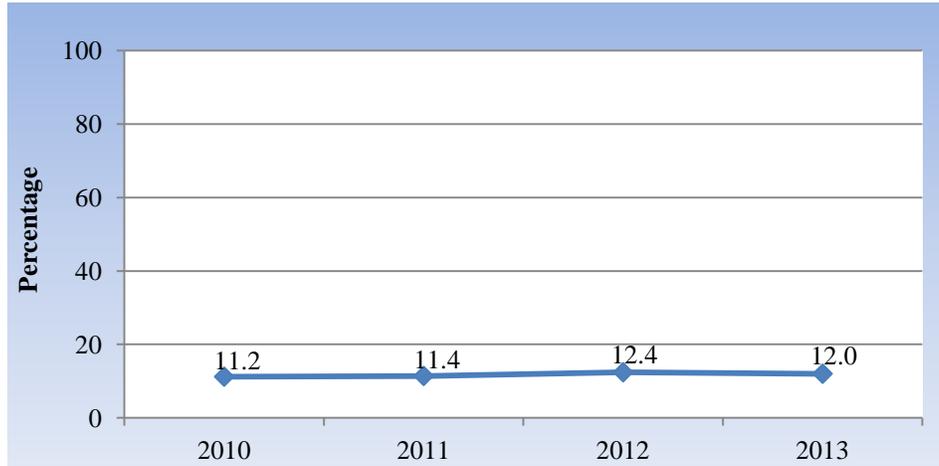
Note: 2012-13 reflects Preliminary Data

Source: Florida Office of Early Learning, VPK Readiness Rate data

Headline Indicator 2.4: Early Childhood Staff with Bachelor’s Degrees.

Indicator definition: Percentage of early childhood staff with a bachelor’s degree (Based on data collected by the Department of Children and Families for the facilities they regulate statewide, which represents 68.5 %. The calculation does not include those staff who work with mixed age groups or staff who work with children 5+ years of age).

Graph 7. Early Childhood Staff with Bachelor’s Degrees



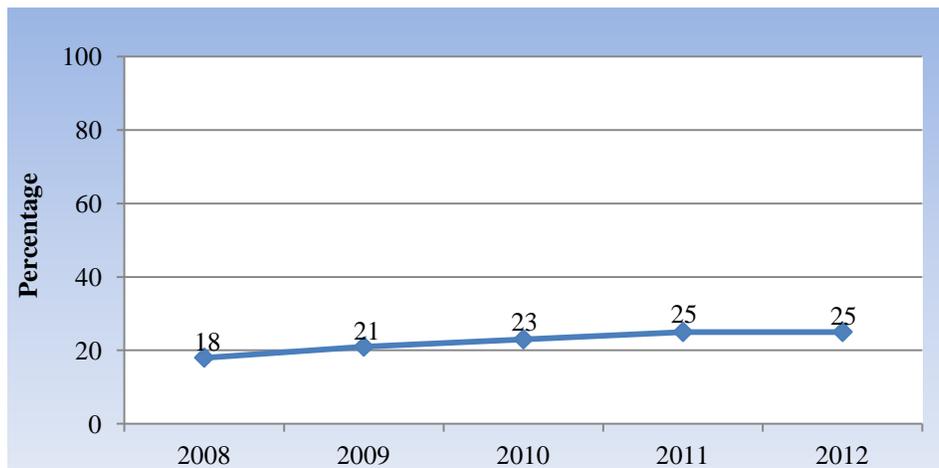
Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Care Regulation and Background Screening

Area of Focus: Every Florida Child Lives in a Stable and Nurturing Family

Headline Indicator 3.1: Children in Poverty

Indicator definition: Percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. In calendar year 2012, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$23,283. This amount is higher than the annual income amount of \$21,758 identified in 2009.

Graph 8. Children in Poverty

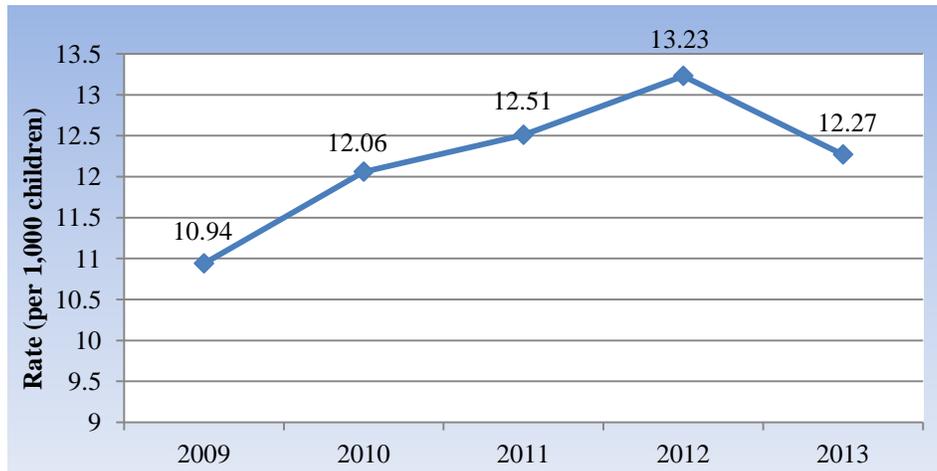


Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2012 American Community Survey provided by the National KIDSCOUNT (www.kidscount.org)

Headline Indicator 3.2: Children who are Maltreated

Indicator definition: Rate of children with verified maltreatment per 1,000 children

Graph 9. Children who are Maltreated

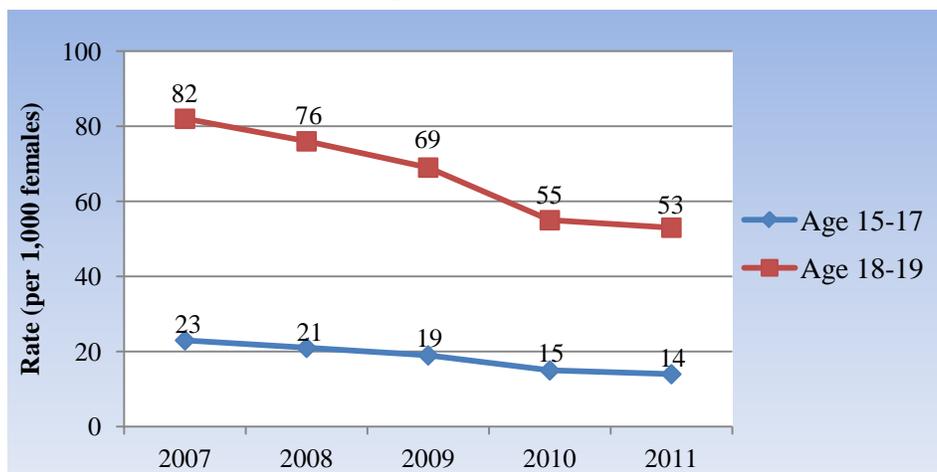


Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Per Capita Abuse Rate report run on September 18, 2013

Headline Indicator 3.3: Teen Births

Indicator definition: Rate of birth to teenagers by age group. Rate is per 1,000 females in each age group. Data reflects the mother's place of residence, rather than the child's place of the birth.

Graph 10. Teen Births



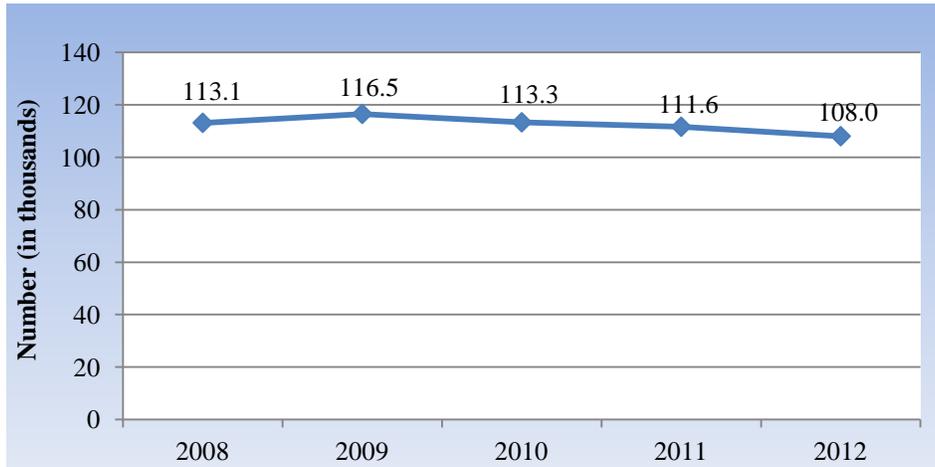
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division provided by the National KIDSCOUNT (www.kidscount.org)

Area of Focus: Every Florida Child Lives in a Safe and Supportive Community

Headline Indicator 3.1: Domestic Violence

Indicator definition: Number (in thousands) of statewide reported domestic violence offenses in Florida, 1992 – 2012. Offenses include murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, forcible sodomy, forcible fondling, aggravated assault, aggravated stalking, simple assault, threat/intimidation, and simple stalking.

Graph 11. Domestic Violence

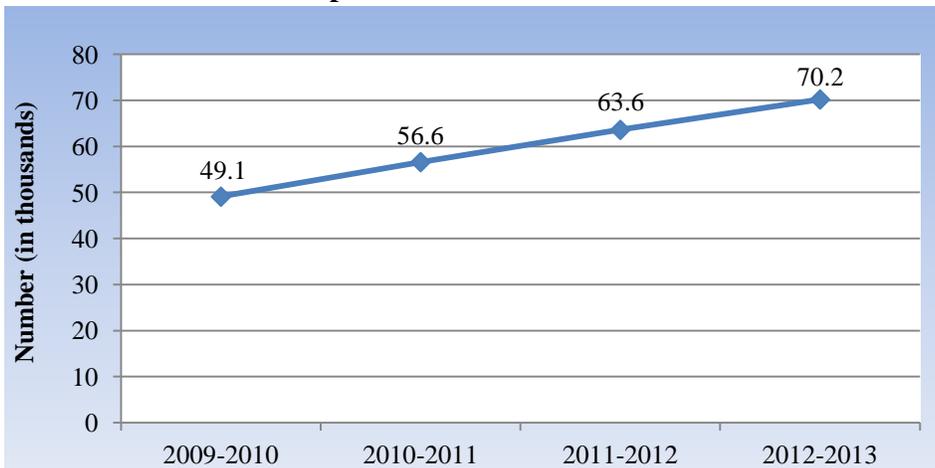


Source: Florida Statistical Analysis Center: FDLE (2008 – 2012). *Crime in Florida, Florida uniform crime report* (www.fdle.state.fl.us)

Headline Indicator 3.2: Homeless Children

Indicator definition: Number (in thousands) of homeless students reported in Florida public schools in each school year.

Graph 12. Homeless Children



Source: 2009-2013 Survey 5 Final Homeless Counts, Florida Department of Education (<http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/titlex.asp>)

Headline Indicator 3.3: Children in Supportive Neighborhoods

Indicator definition: Percentage of children age 0 – 17 who are living in supportive neighborhoods derived from responses (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) to four statements: 1) People in my neighborhood help each other out; 2) We watch out for each other’s children in this neighborhood; 3) There are people I can count on in this neighborhood; and 4) If my child were outside playing and got hurt or scared, there are adults nearby who I trust to help my child. Valid responses on at least three items are included.

Graph 13. Children in Supportive Neighborhoods



Source: 2003, 2007, and 2011 National Survey of Children’s Health (<http://childhealthdata.org>)

State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care

Established in March 2010, the Florida State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care (SAC) was funded by a three-year grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and served as an advisory body to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet. Over the three-year period, the SAC used the \$4,983,079 grant to initiate and complete projects that laid the groundwork for improvement in the early learning workforce, advanced research to benefit young learners in years to come and are leading to improvements in and out of early learning classrooms and care settings. The SAC worked with recognized educational authorities including the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida, the University of North Florida Institute for Education, the American Institutes for Research, Palm Beach State College’s Institute for Excellence in Early Care and Education, Florida State University’s Center for Prevention and Early Intervention, the Children’s Forum, the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Web-based Early Learning System (WELS) Systems Foundation and Teachstone Training, to accomplish the following:

- Early Learning Workforce Study (\$110,000)
- Assessing Classroom Effectiveness (\$983,984 – Training, \$22,287 – Materials)
- Improving Classroom Effectiveness (\$345,000)
- Professional Development (\$1,620,876)
- Assessing Florida’s Early Education and Care Needs (\$368,113)
- Training Parent Leaders to Increase Parent Engagement (\$78,750 – Training, \$10,632 – Materials)
- Measuring School Readiness (\$263,294)

A full description of the accomplishment for the SAC can be found on the Cabinet’s website at www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet.

Social Work Consortium

In 2013 the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet partnered with the National Association of Social Workers – Florida Chapter (NASWFL) to create the first Social Work Consortium in Florida. Each agency on the Cabinet identified staff to participate in the consortium, and the consortium held its inaugural meeting in November 2013 in Orlando. Topics of discussion included: the social work workforce in Florida, state agencies workforce and research needs, workforce and research information from the schools of social work, and workforce and research contributions from state social work organizations. The consortium members plan to meet in early 2014 to follow up from the inaugural meeting.

The purpose of the consortium is to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership with state agencies and community organizations to increase the utilization of social work workforce, education, and research in Florida.

The state agencies and NASWFL members and staff see several benefits to having a consortium. They include:

- 1) To offer to state agencies and community-based organizations easier access to the workforce of professionally-educated social workers through a career center network.
- 2) To assist state and community agencies by identifying how to best use professional social worker's skills, knowledge, education, experience, and ethical competence in meeting the needs of Florida families.
- 3) To consult and create training for state and community agencies on relevant topics such as: trauma informed care, veteran resources, mental health and substance abuse issues, staff supervision, and case management skill development and certification.
- 4) To provide linkages between the state agencies, community organizations, and social work programs with faculty research and student internships.
- 5) To create opportunities for joint advocacy for client resources.
- 6) To provide state and community agencies opportunities to meet their aspirations for a professionally-educated and highly-qualified workforce, at the entry and advanced levels.
- 7) To encourage the sharing of resources and networking opportunities.
- 8) To promote positive media coverage on the work of the state and community agencies and the social work profession.

Florida Youth Commission

Aspiring youth who wish to be a voice for children across the state and participate in state government activities are encouraged to submit an application for consideration to become a member of the Florida Youth Commission. From these applicants, twelve young adults were chosen to serve as the 2013 Youth Commissioners. Members of the 2013 class of Youth Commissioners were appointed in March 2013 and will serve at least a one year term. Their names and area from which they come are identified below:



2013 Youth Commissioners

Janae Bell – Weston, Florida
Cesar Castillo – Hialeah, Florida
Alan Cat – Orlando, Florida
Maya King – Tallahassee, Florida
Blake Maier – Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Nathan Meeks – Lecanto, Florida

Sajan Patel – Clearwater, Florida
Chloe Patterson – Tallahassee, Florida
Ellen Pham – Tampa, Florida
Ben Sandler – Weston, Florida
Morgan Siskand – Weston, Florida
Jacob Stern – Miami Beach, Florida

The goals of the Florida Youth Commission are:

- Always strive to be a voice for Youth around the state.
- Advise the Cabinet on current issues the Youth Commission think are the most important to Florida's youth.
- Engage other young Floridians to get involved with the Youth Commission and the Cabinet, as well as Florida government.

In January 2013, Youth Commissioner Alan Cat presented the Commission's advocacy toolkit to the Cabinet. The toolkit was disseminated to various youth groups throughout Florida as well as the local school districts for their use. The toolkit was created to provide youth an explanation of state government and how youth can advocate on behalf of themselves and others.

In April 2013 the Youth Commissioners held its annual *Teens Only Town Hall Meeting* with Florida Children and Youth Cabinet members. The Youth Commissioners researched topics and areas of interest to directly ask the Cabinet members. The Cabinet members provided additional information and responses to the Youth Commissioners questions. Youth from the public also had the opportunity to ask the Cabinet questions that spoke to their interests and concerns. Following this event, Cabinet members and Youth Commissioners attended a luncheon. The Youth Commissioners were provided with opportunities to learn more about the work of state agencies.

Throughout 2013, the Youth Commission worked on engaging youth throughout Florida by maintaining an active Facebook page – www.facebook.com/floridayouthcommission. In mid 2013 the Youth Commissioners decided to establish an initiative to support throughout their term as Youth Commissioners. The initiative they chose was the Listen Up! program, created by Youth Commissioner Jacob Stern. The Listen Up! program provides an opportunity for youth and community leaders to speak to students in schools on topics of bullying, appropriate use of technology, decision making, choices, and consequences. The Youth Commissioners committed to providing at least two presentations throughout the year and worked to identify judges, prosecutors, or law enforcement personnel to join with them in presenting information to elementary, middle and high school students. In addition, Youth Commissioners were encouraged to conduct presentations that increase awareness on topics of their interest. Various methods are used to conduct presentations to include in person presentations and development of videos to be shared through social media channels.

Appendix

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
Florida Statute 402.56

- (1) SHORT TITLE.—This act may be cited as the “Children and Youth Cabinet Act.”
- (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—
 - (a) The Legislature finds that all state agencies and programs that touch the lives of children and youth must work in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a continuum of services that benefit children from prenatal care through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood. The Legislature further finds that creating a Children and Youth Cabinet is the best method by which the state might achieve the visions and plans necessary to ensure that this state is the first place families think of when asked, “Where do you want to raise a child?”
 - (b) The Legislature, in collaboration with the Governor, intends to develop and implement a shared vision among the branches of government in order to improve child and family outcomes in this state. By working collaboratively, the Legislature intends to invest in the education and skills of our children and youth, develop a cohesive vision and plan that ensures a long-term commitment to children and youth issues, align public resources serving children and youth to support their healthy growth and development, and promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all governmental agencies that provide services for children, youth, and their families.
- (3) ORGANIZATION.—There is created the Children and Youth Cabinet, which is a coordinating council as defined in s. 20.03.
 - (a) The cabinet shall ensure that the public policy of this state relating to children and youth is developed to promote interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order that services designed 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.
 - (b) The cabinet is created in the Executive Office of the Governor, which shall provide administrative support and service to the cabinet.
 - (c) The cabinet shall meet at least four times each year, but no more than six times each year, in different regions of the state in order to solicit input from the public and any other individual offering testimony relevant to the issues considered. Each meeting must include a public comment session.
- (4) MEMBERS.—The cabinet shall consist of 14 members including the Governor and the following persons:
 - (a)
 1. The Secretary of Children and Family Services;
 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;
 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities;
 4. The director of the Office of Early Learning;
 5. The State Surgeon General;
 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;
 7. The Commissioner of Education;

8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;
 9. The director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention; and
 10. Five members representing children and youth advocacy organizations, who are not service providers and who are appointed by the Governor.
- (b) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, and the Chief Financial Officer, or their appointed designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the cabinet.
 - (c) The Governor or the Governor's designee shall serve as the chair of the cabinet.
 - (d) Nongovernmental members of the cabinet shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while in performance of their duties.
- (5) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Children and Youth Cabinet shall:
- (a) Develop and implement a shared and cohesive vision using integrated services to improve child, youth, and family outcomes in this state.
 - (b) Develop, no later than December 31, 2007, a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the shared and cohesive vision. The plan shall be centered upon a long-term commitment to children and youth issues and align all public resources to serve children and youth and their families in a manner that supports the healthy growth and development of children. The plan shall prepare the children and youth to be responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce. The plan shall include a continuum of services that will benefit children from prenatal care through services for youth in transition to adulthood.
 - (c) Develop and implement measurable outcomes for each state department, agency, and program that are consistent with the strategic plan. The cabinet shall establish a baseline measurement for each outcome and regularly report on the progress made toward achieving the desired outcome.
 - (d) Design and implement actions that will promote collaboration, creativity, increased efficiency, information sharing, and improved service delivery between and within state governmental organizations that provide services for children and youth and their families. In particular, the efforts shall include the long-range planning process mandated by s. 216.013.
 - (e) Foster public awareness of children and youth issues and develop new partners in the effort to serve children and youth.
 - (f) Create a children and youth impact statement for evaluating proposed legislation, requested appropriations, and programs. The impact statement shall be shared with the Legislature in their deliberative process.
 - (g) Identify existing and potential funding streams and resources for children's services, including, but not limited to, public funding, foundation and organization grants, and other forms of private funding opportunities, including public-private partnerships.
 - (h) 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, explore options for and allow maximization of federal financial participation, and implement the state's vision and strategic plan.

- (i) Engage in other activities that will implement improved collaboration of agencies in order to create, manage, and promote coordinated policies, programs, and service delivery systems that support children and youth.
- (6) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—The Governor may appoint an advisory board to assist the cabinet in its tasks. The board shall include persons who can provide to the cabinet the best available technical and professional research and assistance. If an advisory board is created, it shall include representatives of children and youth advocacy organizations and youth, wherever practicable, who have been recipients of services and programs operated or funded by state agencies.
- (7) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Children and Youth Cabinet shall, by February 1 of each year, provide an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the public concerning its activities and progress towards making this state the first place families think of when asked, “Where do they want to raise their children?” The annual report may include recommendations for needed legislation or rulemaking authority.

History.—s. 1, ch. 2007-151; s. 53, ch. 2008-6; s. 284, ch. 2011-142; s. 61, ch. 2012-96; s. 16, ch. 2012-178.

Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection
Florida Statute 39.001, Sections 7 – 10

- (7) **LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN.**—The incidence of known child abuse, abandonment, and neglect has increased rapidly over the past 5 years. The impact that abuse, abandonment, or neglect has on the victimized child, siblings, family structure, and inevitably on all citizens of the state has caused the Legislature to determine that the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall be a priority of this state. To further this end, it is the intent of the Legislature that an Office of Adoption and Child Protection be established.
- (8) **OFFICE OF ADOPTION AND CHILD PROTECTION.**—
- (a) For purposes of establishing a comprehensive statewide approach for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect, the Office of Adoption and Child Protection is created within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Governor shall appoint a Chief Child Advocate for the office.
- (b) The Chief Child Advocate shall:
1. Assist in developing rules pertaining to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and implementation of child abuse prevention efforts.
 2. Act as the Governor's liaison with state agencies, other state governments, and the public and private sectors on matters that relate to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
 3. Work to secure funding and other support for the state's promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention efforts, including, but not limited to, establishing cooperative relationships among state and private agencies.
 4. Develop a strategic program and funding initiative that links the separate jurisdictional activities of state agencies with respect to promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention. The office may designate lead and contributing agencies to develop such initiatives.
 5. Advise the Governor and the Legislature on statistics related to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention trends in this state; the status of current adoption programs and services, current child abuse prevention programs and services, the funding of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention programs and services; and the status of the office with regard to the development and implementation of the state strategy for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
 6. Develop public awareness campaigns to be implemented throughout the state for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.

- (c) The office is authorized and directed to:
1. Oversee the preparation and implementation of the state plan established under subsection (9) and revise and update the state plan as necessary.
 2. Provide for or make available continuing professional education and training in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 3. Work to secure funding in the form of appropriations, gifts, and grants from the state, the Federal Government, and other public and private sources in order to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention efforts.
 4. Make recommendations pertaining to agreements or contracts for the establishment and development of:
 - a. Programs and services for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - b. Training programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - c. Multidisciplinary and discipline-specific training programs for professionals with responsibilities affecting children, young adults, and families.
 - d. Efforts to promote adoption.
 - e. Postadoptive services to support adoptive families.
 5. Monitor, evaluate, and review the development and quality of local and statewide services and programs for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect and shall publish and distribute an annual report of its findings on or before January 1 of each year to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the head of each state agency affected by the report, and the appropriate substantive committees of the Legislature. The report shall include:
 - a. A summary of the activities of the office.
 - b. A summary of the adoption data collected and reported to the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the federal Administration for Children and Families.
 - c. A summary of the child abuse prevention data collected and reported to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the federal Administration for Children and Families.
 - d. A summary detailing the timeliness of the adoption process for children adopted from within the child welfare system.

- e. Recommendations, by state agency, for the further development and improvement of services and programs for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - f. Budget requests, adoption promotion and support needs, and child abuse prevention program needs by state agency.
6. Work with the direct-support organization established under s. 39.0011 to receive financial assistance.

(9) PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.—

- (a) The office shall develop a state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of abuse, abandonment, and neglect of children and shall submit the state plan to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Governor no later than December 31, 2008. The Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall participate and fully cooperate in the development of the state plan at both the state and local levels. Furthermore, appropriate local agencies and organizations shall be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the state plan at the local level. Appropriate local groups and organizations shall include, but not be limited to, community mental health centers; guardian ad litem programs for children under the circuit court; the school boards of the local school districts; the Florida local advocacy councils; community-based care lead agencies; private or public organizations or programs with recognized expertise in working with child abuse prevention programs for children and families; private or public organizations or programs with recognized expertise in working with children who are sexually abused, physically abused, emotionally abused, abandoned, or neglected and with expertise in working with the families of such children; private or public programs or organizations with expertise in maternal and infant health care; multidisciplinary child protection teams; child day care centers; law enforcement agencies; and the circuit courts, when guardian ad litem programs are not available in the local area. The state plan to be provided to the Legislature and the Governor shall include, as a minimum, the information required of the various groups in paragraph (b).
- (b) The development of the state plan shall be accomplished in the following manner:
 - 1. The office shall establish a Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council composed of an adoptive parent who has adopted a child from within the child welfare system and representatives from each state agency and appropriate local agencies and organizations specified in paragraph (a). The advisory council shall serve as the research arm of the office and shall be responsible for:
 - a. Assisting in developing a plan of action for better coordination and integration of the goals, activities, and funding pertaining to the promotion and support of adoption and the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect conducted by the office in order to maximize staff and resources at the state level. The plan of action shall be included in the state plan.

- b. Assisting in providing a basic format to be utilized by the districts in the preparation of local plans of action in order to provide for uniformity in the district plans and to provide for greater ease in compiling information for the state plan.
 - c. Providing the districts with technical assistance in the development of local plans of action, if requested.
 - d. Assisting in examining the local plans to determine if all the requirements of the local plans have been met and, if they have not, informing the districts of the deficiencies and requesting the additional information needed.
 - e. Assisting in preparing the state plan for submission to the Legislature and the Governor. Such preparation shall include the incorporation into the state plan of information obtained from the local plans, the cooperative plans with the members of the advisory council, and the plan of action for coordination and integration of state departmental activities. The state plan shall include a section reflecting general conditions and needs, an analysis of variations based on population or geographic areas, identified problems, and recommendations for change. In essence, the state plan shall provide an analysis and summary of each element of the local plans to provide a statewide perspective. The state plan shall also include each separate local plan of action.
 - f. Conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of a Children's Cabinet.
 - g. Working with the specified state agency in fulfilling the requirements of subparagraphs 2., 3., 4., and 5.
2. The office, the department, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health shall work together in developing ways to inform and instruct parents of school children and appropriate district school personnel in all school districts in the detection of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and in caring for a child's needs after a report is made. The plan for accomplishing this end shall be included in the state plan.
 3. The office, the department, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the Department of Health shall work together in developing ways to inform and instruct appropriate local law enforcement personnel in the detection of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
 4. Within existing appropriations, the office shall work with other appropriate public and private agencies to emphasize efforts to educate the general public about the problem of and ways to detect child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. The plan for accomplishing this end shall be included in the state plan.
 5. The office, the department, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health shall work together on the enhancement or adaptation of curriculum materials to assist instructional personnel in providing instruction through a multidisciplinary approach on the identification, intervention, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

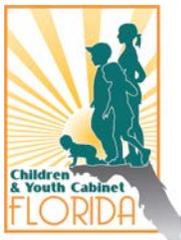
The curriculum materials shall be geared toward a sequential program of instruction at the four progressional levels, K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Strategies for encouraging all school districts to utilize the curriculum are to be included in the state plan for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

6. Each district of the department shall develop a plan for its specific geographical area. The plan developed at the district level shall be submitted to the advisory council for utilization in preparing the state plan. The district local plan of action shall be prepared with the involvement and assistance of the local agencies and organizations listed in this paragraph, as well as representatives from those departmental district offices participating in the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and treatment and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. In order to accomplish this, the office shall establish a task force on the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The office shall appoint the members of the task force in accordance with the membership requirements of this section. The office shall ensure that individuals from both urban and rural areas and an adoptive parent who has adopted a child from within the child welfare system are represented on the task force. The task force shall develop a written statement clearly identifying its operating procedures, purpose, overall responsibilities, and method of meeting responsibilities. The district plan of action to be prepared by the task force shall include, but shall not be limited to:
 - a. Documentation of the magnitude of the problems of child abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse, and child abandonment and neglect in its geographical area.
 - b. A description of programs currently serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children and their families and a description of programs for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect, including information on the impact, cost-effectiveness, and sources of funding of such programs.
 - c. Information concerning the number of children within the child welfare system available for adoption who need child-specific adoption promotion efforts.
 - d. A description of programs currently promoting and supporting adoptive families, including information on the impact, cost-effectiveness, and sources of funding of such programs.
 - e. A description of a comprehensive approach for providing postadoption services. The continuum of services shall include, but not be limited to, sufficient and accessible parent and teen support groups; case management, information, and referral services; and educational advocacy.
 - f. A continuum of programs and services necessary for a comprehensive approach to the promotion of adoption and the prevention of all types of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect as well as a brief description of such programs and services.
 - g. A description, documentation, and priority ranking of local needs related to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect based upon the continuum of programs and services.

- h. A plan for steps to be taken in meeting identified needs, including the coordination and integration of services to avoid unnecessary duplication and cost, and for alternative funding strategies for meeting needs through the reallocation of existing resources, utilization of volunteers, contracting with local universities for services, and local government or private agency funding.
- i. A description of barriers to the accomplishment of a comprehensive approach to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.
- j. Recommendations for changes that can be accomplished only at the state program level or by legislative action.

(10) FUNDING AND SUBSEQUENT PLANS.—

- (a) All budget requests submitted by the office, the department, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Corrections, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, or any other agency to the Legislature for funding of efforts for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall be based on the state plan developed pursuant to this section.
- (b) The office and the other agencies and organizations listed in paragraph (9)(a) shall readdress the state plan and make necessary revisions every 5 years, at a minimum. Such revisions shall be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate no later than June 30 of each year divisible by 5. At least biennially, the office shall review the state plan and make any necessary revisions based on changing needs and program evaluation results. An annual progress report shall be submitted to update the state plan in the years between the 5-year intervals. In order to avoid duplication of effort, these required plans may be made a part of or merged with other plans required by either the state or Federal Government, so long as the portions of the other state or Federal Government plan that constitute the state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect are clearly identified as such and are provided to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate as required above.



Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
The Capitol, Suite 2002, 400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
Phone: (850) 717-9261
OACP@eog.myflorida.com
www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet

