**Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Technology Workgroup Meeting**

**Friday, April 14, 2017**

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Florida Department of Children and Families Headquarters, Building 1, Room #132

1317 Winewood Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida

**Meeting Summary**

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. To obtain meeting materials, please visit [www.flgov.com/childrens- cabinet.](http://www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet)

**Attendance Summary**

**Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Technology Workgroup members in attendance:**

* Chair Victoria Zepp
* Marianna Tutwiler, Florida Institute for Child Welfare
* MaKenna Woods, Florida Institute for Child Welfare
* Melanie May, Office of Early Learning
* Lili Copp, Head Start State Collaboration Office
* Joe Wright, Department of Health
* Jeff Sellers, AEM Corporation
* Andre Smith, Department of Education
* Greg Ramsey, Guardian ad Litem
* Fred Knapp, Agency for State Technology

**Guests via Phone:**

* Heidi Fox, Agency for Health Care Administration
* Kay Hefferon, Agency for Health Care Administration
* Steve Davis, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
* Geoff Fulcher, Department of Juvenile Justice
* Norin Dollard, KIDS COUNT
* Dawn Creamer, Department of Education

**Staff in Attendance:** Meeting Start Time: 3:00 p.m.

* Lindsey Zander
* Matilda von Kalm Meeting End Time: 4:45 p.m.

**Proceedings**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Victoria Zepp called the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Technology Workgroup meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

The roll was called by Lindsey Zander and a quorum was confirmed.

**Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the March 17th meeting were approved.

**Children and Youth Cabinet Website**

Chair Zepp provided an update on the website from the Executive Office of the Governor. The website will be updated with the new minutes from the Cabinet and workgroup meetings. Chair Zepp would like to have a meeting with the Governor's office to discuss creating a portal on the website that links important information regarding children and youth from other agency websites that are on the Children and Youth Cabinet.

**Action Item #1:** Continue to find out more information on the next steps for creating a portal for the Children and Youth Cabinet website that would provide the links to important agency information regarding children.

**AEM Corporation Presentation on Nation-wide Data Sharing Systems**

Jeff Sellers presented on the Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS). He discussed how other states are using data systems within their child welfare programs, including unique identifiers, data agreements, setting up systems, and how to create an initiative and process questions. He is with the Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

In 2006 the US Department of Education began to provide states with funding to build these statewide longitudinal data systems. The Florida Department of Education has won three of these grants, and in recent years, it has expanded into P20 (preschool through early college).

ECIDS is an integrated data system that tracks children who enter into the welfare system. It takes data from different program areas, including Public Primary Education, Head Start, State Pre-K programs and other childcare. The intent of ECIDS is to expand on the current capabilities that data can be used to answer questions that cannot be answered with any one program data system. Building an ECIDS requires collaboration between the agencies and institutions that pertain to children throughout their developmental years. An ECIDS is used to create longitudinal data records that measure a child from birth to entering the workforce. This data measures how well their education standards are and workforce policies. The data also answers critical program and policy questions across agencies that provide services to children and families within a state. This assists in the allocation of resources across agencies to serve the children of this state. The data also provides a distinct count of children in the state by helping current data systems that are used for operational or key instructional decisions.

Funding for ECIDS through state and federal money can be seen throughout most states within the nation. A few states are investing their own internal funds to begin this data integration. Two programs that are beginning to invest in data sharing are SLDS and RTT-ELC. For the data integration to be possible in Florida, funding for early childhood data system creation must stay in place. It is also important to evaluate the data usage of the data sharing after the integration is put in place and operation to make sure that the data is useful to stakeholders.

Members from the Department of Education, including Andre Smith attest to how that department is using integrated data management to allow regional data collectors to make more decisions about how the data shows the success of early childhood through college programs. He also attests to using aspects of a child’s birth certificate as a unique identifier. The Department of Education is also preparing to assign parts of social security numbers of students to track them throughout child development programs. Currently there is a senate bill that would allow the Office of Early Learning and the Department of Education to develop a unique identifier for children in Florida. Currently, district school ID’s are used as unique identifiers, however many parents are opting out for an anonymous identifier due to security breaches. Chair Zepp commented on the importance of having these unique identifiers so the children of Florida can be better served.

**Example States**

Jeff Sellers gives an example of Utah’s Early Childhood Integrated Data System. The Utah Department of Health handles the data distribution. Funding is provided through a state grant with the mission to support Utah parents in their efforts to ensure that their children enter school healthy and ready to learn. Mr. Sellers believes that having a mission like this gives the data integration a goal. The data integration is driven by key questions that address education standards, service quality of programs, program characteristics, economic returns of better childhood education and usage for policy information. Their data alliance oversees the P20 system which covers K-12, Post-Secondary and workforce so that educational researchers can track children in the state and their success. The other part of the program, PII measures the success of the state and its children holistically, including aspects such as home intervention and insurance claims.

The other example is Minnesota's Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System. The data collection is linked between the Departments of Education, Human Services and Health. Each Department has their own set of questions. They use their LDS to provide information to a website, so they do not need unique identifiers because the numbers are at an aggregate level and the children used are de-identified after the information is linked together. Chair Zepp mentioned that the process of linking data between departments before the de-identification is the issue the workgroup always runs into when trying to link child data. One issue with this is that to be able to complete this data integration, the state’s IT must be in one place.

There have been recent reports from Health and Human Services and the Department of Education on how to share integrated data. The information to the link is included in the PowerPoint.

**Data Governance**

The EC Data Governance is a statewide perspective that helps to determine integration and data element authority, which is driven by state policy. This differs from departmental EC Data Governance, which is program centric, determines data elements, definitions, collections and is driven by program essential questions. Mr. Sellers encourages the workgroup to look outside of departmental data and think of data governance at the state-wide level to enable better policy to children and youth. The difference between data governance and stakeholder engagement is that data governance is representative of each agency contributing data to early childhood integrated data system, whereas stakeholder engagements are user of ECIDS data and those directly or indirectly affected by its use. Lilli Copp reminded the workgroup that materials on this have been shared with members.

Mr. Sellers also explained the difference between linking and integrating data. While linking data is easier, integrating data codes the information into the same language so that the data is more usable at the aggregate level. Chair Zepp mentioned that the Cabinet is looking for a way to integrate child welfare information into metadata soon.

Chair Zepp reminded the workgroup that at this time the Children and Youth Cabinet should focus on policy that would facilitate these data integrations so that when the Cabinet choses to pursue this shift they can do so smoothly. These data sharing integrations are helpful to posing policy later, however, the issue remains how to present the data using unique identifiers. She would like to see a state budget for child welfare, and believes that the more data the cabinet can use to show the need for this budget, the better chance it has of passing. The ECIDS toolkit is available for the workgroup to look at.

**Qualtrics Data: Makenna Woods and Marianna Tutwiler, Florida Institute for Child Welfare**

McKenna Woods presented on the Institute for Child Welfare’s research. At the beginning of the qualtrics data project, Dr. Babcock asked the Cabinet to fill out a survey on Qualtrics that had agencies submit what type of data they collect. The data she received from three departments was not complete enough to be able to present comprehensive findings. She does not believe her findings are helpful right now to the goals of the workgroup.

Chair Zepp clarified what the workgroup is looking for. She is interested in seeing what data the agencies are currently sharing and what they would like to share. She said the agencies do not have shared data right now, and would like to identify what data is important to be shared so that when the data needs to be used, it is ready. She would also like to explore how the agencies collect different data, whether that be manual or inputted technologically. She would like a technological inventory of what data points to look at, as well as identify what type of unique identifiers are used and what data they are used for. Chair Zepp is looking for information on data agreements as well, and who owns the data. For example, some of the agency data is owned by third party institutes. The Qualtrics survey will be an inventory of data that can be shared. Chair Zepp would like the results of the survey to then show how the data sharing system could improve what is being shared and with who so that agencies can work together to prioritize children. The process to identify the data being shared started one year ago when the Cabinet created the Suicide Prevention Taskforce. The Cabinet believed that these individuals may have touched multiple agencies in Florida.

Chair Zepp believes that to continue this process, a review of the questions in the survey should be sent out so any additional questions can be added or removed. This will improve the results that they survey finds. The questions will be a review of these questions so a charter can be put together to create and distribute the survey.

**Action Item #2:** Lindsey Zander will send out the original survey information so the agencies can go through that data information inventory again before the next workgroup meeting.

**Action Item #3:** The next Technology Workgroup meeting will be a discussion of the Qualtrics questions to be used to for the agency-wide data sharing research conducted by the Florida Institute for Child Welfare.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**Adjournment**

Chair Zepp announced the next Technology Workgroup meeting dates:

* **May 19, 2017**
* **June 16, 2017**

With no other business and an announcement that meeting minutes and action steps from the current meeting will be provided, the meeting was adjourned at: 4:45 p.m.