



# Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 8:30am – 12:30pm  
The Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room  
400 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399



## Meeting Summary

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. Please contact Frenchie Yon at [Frenchie.Yon@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:Frenchie.Yon@eog.myflorida.com) to obtain meeting materials or visit [www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet](http://www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet).

### Attendance Summary

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet members in attendance:

- Chair Wansley Walters
- Executive Director Alan Abramowitz
- Ms. Ellen Anderson
- Surgeon General John Armstrong (Designee)
- Ms. Berthy de la Rosa Aponte
- Secretary Mike Carroll (Designee)
- Secretary Christina Daly
- Director Zackary Gibson
- Representative Gayle Harrell
- Mr. David Lawrence (via Phone)
- Interim Director Rodney MacKinnon
- Youth Commissioner Blake Maier
- Director Barbara Palmer
- Justice Barbara Pariente
- Dr. Judy Schaechter
- Commissioner Pam Stewart (Designee)
- Mr. Steven Uhlfelder
- Ms. Victoria Zepp

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet members unable to attend:

- Secretary Elizabeth Dudek
- Senator Eleanor Sobel

### Proceedings

#### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Wansley Walters, Florida Children and Youth Cabinet called the meeting to order and welcomed the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet) members. Chair Walters reviewed the meeting agenda and charge to the Cabinet members. The roll was called by Ms. Frenchie Yon, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, and a quorum was confirmed. Director Zackary Gibson of the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection discussed the Florida Sunshine Law with the Cabinet members.

#### **II. Next Cabinet Activities**

The following event was shared with the Cabinet by Chair Wansley Walters:

- The Florida Youth Commission will be hosting a Teens Only Town Hall on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> of Children's Week. Cabinet members were invited and encouraged to participate in the Town Hall.

#### **III. Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Annual Report**

Chair Walters thanked the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection for putting together the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet's 2014 Annual Report. Chair Walters then thanked Cabinet members for their review and comments. Director Gibson then asked for suggestions on the report from the Cabinet members to better reflect the work being accomplished.

#### **IV. Continuation of Strategic Planning Meeting**

Mr. Bob Brown, Vice President of Professional Services with Mosaica Partners briefly discussed the events of the previous meeting. He spoke on an "Enterprise View" of the process from neo-natal to death. Mr. Brown stated that there needed to be a Care Coordination Team and that the Cabinet should consider

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looking at the optimal state, or the ultimate level of welfare at each point in the process. Mr. Brown also pointed to a need to look at the agencies in the state that work with young adults as they reach adulthood.

Chair Walters proposed three goals of the Cabinet. The first goal, a short term goal, was to take a more active role in addressing issues in the legislature as well as agencies standing together in support of each other. This objective was discussed extensively including the need to review bill analysis. The Cabinet passed a motion to support Rep. Harrell's bill to add a district superintendent to the Cabinet. Mr. Steven Uhlfelder made a motion and Executive Director Alan Abramowitz, Guardian ad Litem, seconded the motion to support the authorization of \$30 million in federal money to reduce the current waitlist by approximately 6,300 children (10% of waitlist). Discussion included clarification that the money are one time and would require General Revenue money in future years. After ample discussion, the motion passed, with Justice Barbara Pariente abstaining.

The second major goal was to craft a budgetary pool that would "follow" multi-system children through the aforementioned process. This budget would eliminate coordination issues between agencies over spending on these cases. The Cabinet discussed potential problems of this proposal, such as consolidation of their own respective budgets. The Cabinet also provided several suggestions to help accomplish this goal, for example, Justice Pariente recommended that the databases of the agencies involved be consolidated. Another example is the calls for process and asset mapping by Director Barbara Palmer and Ms. Victoria Zepp. These suggestions led to motion by Ms. Zepp to create a Legislative Affairs Committee headed by Ms. Ellen Anderson, and a Technology Committee, headed by Ms. Zepp. The motion passed.

The final goal Chair Walters outlined was to advocate and act towards prevention rather than reaction. This goal was met with great support by all of the Cabinet members. Ms. Jane Johnson, Chief of Staff, Department of Children and Families and designee of Secretary Mike Carroll, suggested that the Cabinet pick up a results-oriented accountability system similar to the one being implemented currently at the Department of Children and Families, which was also met with copious backing.

Following these discussions, Mr. Brown offered suggestions to greatly improve the efficiency of the Cabinet. He proposed a "divide and conquer" mentality by creating four workgroups, Legislative Coordination; Technology; Interagency Coordination; and a Business, Finance, and Governance Workgroup. The Legislative Coordination Workgroup would be in charge of taking an active role in the Legislature. The Technology Workgroup would work to consolidate the various agencies databases. The Interagency Coordination Workgroup would work on process and asset mapping between agencies. Finally the Business, Finance, and Governance Workgroup would work with the Governor in procuring funds to include an Executive Director for the Cabinet, which had been a suggestion repeatedly asked for throughout the meeting. A subsequent motion was made by Director Barbara Palmer and seconded by Ms. Zepp was passed to create these workgroups and have Ms. Ellen Anderson lead the Legislative Coordination Workgroup; Ms. Zepp lead the Technology Workgroup; the Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities lead the Interagency Coordination Workgroup; and the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families lead the Business, Finance, and Governance Workgroup.

### **V. Youth Commission**

Chair Walters introduced Youth Commissioner Blake Maier. Commissioner Maier showed a video on behalf of the Youth Commission highlighting its events over the past year as well as looking toward new initiatives. Some of these initiatives include creating a website and online poll for youth, creating a pamphlet for the Commission, attending select events, and raising the standards to become a member of the Commission.

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### **VI. Public Comments**

Jack Levine, Founder, 4Generations Institute spoke on behalf of a time bank in Tampa in which volunteers donate hours to spend with and mentor local children.

Dr. Patricia Babcock, Interim Director, Florida Institute for Child Welfare, Florida State University, supported the efforts for integrated technology and strategic planning.

Dr. Mimi Graham, Director, Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy, Florida State University spoke about [www.floridatrauma.org](http://www.floridatrauma.org), which looks at trauma across agencies and advocates for trauma-informed services across the state.

### **VII. Closing**

The next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in St. Lucie County. The Early Learning Bill Analysis was provided to Cabinet members.

Documents filed with these minutes:

- Agenda
- Mosaica Handout
- Florida Statute 402.56
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Strategic Plan
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Workgroup Crosswalk
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Headline Indicator Crosswalk
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet 2014 Annual Report
- Early Learning Bill Analysis