# Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

Technology Workgroup

**March 23, 2018**

**3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST**

Department of Children and Families

Building 1, Room 132

1317 Winewood Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Join by Phone: 1-888-670-3525; Conference ID: 450-816-1561**

# **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.

**Attendance Summary**

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

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| --- | --- |
| * Victoria Zepp, Chair of Technology Workgroup * Joe Wright, Department of Health * Burt Walsh, Agency for State Technology | * Melanie May, Office of Early Learning * Joe Vastola, Department of Children and Families |

**Member Representatives via Phone**:

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| * Mike Magnuson, Agency for Health Care Administration * Greg Ramsey, Guardian ad Litem * Heidi Fox, Agency for Health Care Administration * Steve Davis, Agency for Persons with Disabilities | * Miranda Beggin, Third Sector Capital Partners * Lisa Pittman, Children’s Trust in Miami | * Steve Davis, Agency for Persons with Disabilities * Heidi Fox, Agency for Healthcare Administration |

Meeting Start Time: 3:00 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 4:40 p.m.

## Call to Order and Welcome

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

Chair Zepp introduced David Patterson, Chief, Health and Demographics at South Carolina Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs. Chair Zepp mentioned Broward County’s integrated data system as one of the Technology Workgroup’s adopted projects, then followed up to inform the group of their additional data integration partners, including South Carolina. Due to technological difficulties, Chair Zepp invited Lisa Pittman from The Children’s Trust to speak on her team’s grant for an integrated data system.

## Updates by Lisa Pittman, The Children’s Trust

Lisa Pittman shared that her team has been working for three years under a grant for research-practitioner partnerships for an early childhood integrated data system. The Children’s Trust is partnered with the University of Miami, the Early Learning Coalition Miami-Monroe, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and Miami-Dade County’s Head Start in a data sharing agreement to conduct their work. In total, it took three years to pull the data agreements together, but the Children’s Trust does not have a common identifier yet and hopes the Technology Workgroup can have more success in this area. The Children’s Trust is having their first seminar in April and has six states and communities coming into their cohort.

## Presentation by Dr. David Patterson, Chief, Health and Demographics at South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

Dr. Patterson introduced himself and shared his team’s three-decades long effort to develop a successful, integrated data system. Patterson hopes that although South Carolina and Florida exist in different contexts, politics, and data resources, his teams work can still inspire some ideas and reveal lessons learned to Florida. Patterson shared that the vision of his division is that it is the entire human experience that influences health and social well-being, therefore it should be captured and analyzed through a single, integrated system.

Dr. Patterson informed the Workgroup that he has 34 employees, comprised of statisticians, data systems administrators, and software developers. Their work is funded overwhelmingly by other funds and grants, rather than general appropriations (which is just 13% of their budget). South Carolina’s system is one of the oldest, most comprehensive in the U.S and the experience has taught Patterson the importance of neutrality in maintaining a central repository for many stakeholders. The data should not be used to leverage against other agencies, particularly in the appropriations process, but rather to advance knowledge and apply data to improve services provided. Any use or release of the data must be approved by data owners or a multi-stakeholder council or committee.

Dr. Patterson admitted that establishing and maintaining the system is a challenge. It is a heavy lift on policy, the construction of MOUs, contracting, and may necessitate legislation if implemented elsewhere. Most of the data that is collected by his team is administrative and is added to the system monthly. The data in the system is retained over time, partly because key measures that may be of the interest down the road cannot always be predicted. Ultimately, the system is designed for analytics/statistics rather than record keeping regardless. To keep the system efficient, Patterson’s team has separated the MOU process related to holding the data from the data use agreement review and release process on the back end.

The research his office has done so far has helped close a gap between practitioners, analytics, and researchers. The integrated data system almost acts as a combined ecosystem, where these stakeholders can combine their specialized skills to address issues such as Telepharmacy, youth suicide, and opioid addiction in South Carolina. The integrated system is important for developing a coordinated system of care, rather than duplicating services, and repurposing data points that the state already produces to gain additional value out of the work agencies do.

## Follow Up Discussion

Chair Zepp thanked Dr. Patterson for the presentation and invited Workgroup members to pose questions. Marianne Tutweiler from FSU’s Institute for Child Welfare asked if Dr. Patterson’s team goes down to program level data, to which he responded that for some data (e.g., health care data), the team may even go down to the line item. For instance, in the case of a hospital stay, the team can look into every single procedure that the patient underwent. They also cover economic services, adult protective services, child protective services, the foster care system, early childhood education, child care monitoring, and so on. They don’t have every single program in the state, but they have the large ones.

Chair Zepp asked how the team gets around FERPA to collect education data. Patterson responded that the Office is identified as an education official by the Department of Education, and so FERPA makes allowances for services done on behalf of or in support of education. Specific children can’t be identified for specific purposes, but connections can be made between certain health conditions and performance on standardized testing. However, a fair amount of time is spent with attorneys going over MOU language and what kind of restrictions arise.

Joe Vastola asked what the population is for the unique client data South Carolina is analyzing. Patterson responded that at the time of the master patient index for the health information exchange, the state of South Carolina at that time had a population of approximately 4.5 million. Vastola followed up about de-identified data and security elements for later research, to which Patterson responded that the personal data elements are never released. The team can see the identified information, but the demographics are removed routinely as an added precaution for privacy. Lastly, Vastola asked about the matching logic and the error rate. Patterson replied that it depends on the specific cases and the need for specificity. As the team runs through data, they also conduct visual checks of n=400 size samples to keep track of where errors may be.

In terms of their biggest hurdle to create identifiers and map data in Florida, the attending Workgroup members spoke to matching the unique clients across Florida’s expansive population and correcting for errors. Vastola asked about South Carolina statutory changes that allowed Patterson’s team to move forward, to which Patterson spoke to how statutes enabled them to set up the data warehouse and establish MOUs.

Chair Zepp commented on a desire to have a child welfare budget for youth in the state of Florida. She asked if Patterson has been able to look at analytics to see how much is spent on youth in South Carolina, to which Patterson responded that is one of their ongoing goals for the integrated data system.

## Group Discussion

The group commented on the value gained from that discussion and followed up to share that Lindsey Zander has sent out a contact list for each agency’s research contact. Chair Zepp also brought up that discussions for a transition plan is in the works, however, the Workgroup may benefit from waiting until a new Governor and state administration transitions into their roles to fine-tune it.

# Next Steps

At the next meeting, the Workgroup will have a presentation on a two-generational approach that considers how to serve parents, which enable them to serve youth in return. Dr. Brittany Birkin and Dr. Dale Brill. The Workgroup will also hear from a group in Massachusetts and a group in Miami, FL.

Chair Zepp also mentioned that some FSU students are updating the Cabinet portal with data points.

**Action Item 1**: Chair Zepp will share legislation around the country that has passed on integrated data systems, as they relate specifically to each member agency of the Cabinet, for the Workgroup members.

**Action Item 2**: Workgroup members complete the contact list for research liaisons.

**Action Item 3**: Lindsey will share the health related datasets from Heidi Fox with the rest of the Workgroup.

**Action Item 4**: Chair Zepp asked that the Workgroup members share any research or data that they would like to share on the revised Cabinet portal.

**Action Item 5**: Lindsey will get the name of the ongoing Suicide Prevention Taskforce to Chair Zepp.

# Public Comment

Bob Mayersohn, Commissioner in Parkland, FL, joined the conversation to comment that he is looking for a secure, integrated data system and is excited for the work that the Workgroup is working toward. He also commented that this can become a public health issue, rather than a data support issue alone. Chair Zepp shared her admiration for Parkland as a strong community and thanked Mr. Mayersohn for his support.

# Closing

The next Technology Workgroup meetings will be:

* Friday, April 20th, 3-5 p.m.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.