



Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet

Phone: (850) 717-9261

Fax: (850) 921-0173



Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Members

Wansley Walters
Chair

Secretary Justin Senior
Agency for Health Care Administration

Director Barbara Palmer
Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Secretary Mike Carroll
Department of Children and Families

Secretary Christina K. Daly
Department of Juvenile Justice

Commissioner Pam Stewart
Department of Education

Surgeon General Celeste Philip, MD,
Department of Health

Executive Director Alan Abramowitz
Guardian ad Litem

Director Rodney MacKinnon
Office of Early Learning

Director Zackary Gibson
Governor's Office of Adoption
and Child Protection

Justice Barbara Pariente
Designee of the Chief Justice

Representative Gayle Harrell
Designee of the Speaker of the House

Sandra "Sam" Himmel
Superintendent of Schools

Berthy de la Rosa-Aponte
Designee of the Attorney General

Victoria Zepp
Designee of the Chief Financial Officer

Tanya Wilkins
Governor's Appointee

Diana Ragbeer
Governor's Appointee

Nelson Diaz
Governor's Appointee

Steven Uhlfelder
Governor's Appointee

Judge Sandy Karlan
Governor's Appointee

March 27, 2017

Dear Governor, Senate President, House Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

The mission of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet is 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.

To advance this mission, the Cabinet has worked diligently on behalf of Florida's children and youth, and has identified nine priority areas to further guide our work to serve children and youth in our state. The nine priorities are:

- (1) Percentage of low birth-weight babies born in Florida;
- (2) Percentage of eligible children, under four years of age, not in school readiness or Early Head Start;
- (3) Percentage of children, under four years of age, living at or below 20 percent of the federal poverty level;
- (4) Percentage of infants and toddlers without health insurance;
- (5) Children who are under 12 at first arrest;
- (6) Percent of victims of verified maltreatment who were not subjects of subsequent reports with verified maltreatment within 6 months (related to children removed from homes and returned or who remain in foster care);
- (7) Percent of children that are reading on grade level by fourth grade;
- (8) Percent of children with developmental disabilities placed in out of home placements; and
- (9) Reduction in the number of preventable child deaths that occur with a focus on ages zero to three.

We are aware there are budgetary considerations you are exploring and we believe programs that provide services to children and youth in these priority areas are critical to enabling them to grow up healthy, safe, ready to learn, and successfully transition to adulthood. We ask that you consider maintaining, and enhancing, the funding levels for these programs.

On behalf of all the members listed on this page,

Wansley Walters
Chair