**Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting**

Monday, October 6, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Florida Capitol, Cabinet Room

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 members in attendance:

 Chair Wansley Walters

 Secretary Mike Carroll

 Secretary Christina Daly (designee) Fred Schuknecht

 Director Rodney MacKinnon

 Surgeon General Dr. John Armstrong (designee) Dr. Celeste Phillips

 Secretary Elizabeth Dudek

 Executive Director Alan Abramowitz

 Director Zackary Gibson

 Mr. David Lawrence, Jr.

 Dr. Judy Schaechter

 Mr. Steven Uhlfelder

 Ms. Ellen Anderson

 Judge Sandy Karlan

 Senator Eleanor Sobel

 Representative Gayle Harrell

 Justice Barbara Pariente

 Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte (by phone)

 Victoria Vangalis Zepp

 Director Barbara Palmer (designee) Lisa Robertson

 Commissioner Pam Stewart (designee) Chancellor Hershel Lyons

Staff in attendance: Nicole Stookey, Niki McKinnell, Frenchie Yon

**Proceedings**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Wansley Walters called the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet) meeting to order and welcomed Cabinet members.

Chair Walters recognized the passing of Judge Gladstone. A memorial poem was read by Mr. Abramowitz.

Chair Walters reviewed major actions stemming from last meeting:

* At August 27 meeting, the Cabinet voted to prioritize early childhood, or the first 1,000 days up to age three of a child’s life.
* Cabinet sent a letter to Governor Scott, the Senate President and Speaker of the House encouraging them to make early childhood a top priority for the 2016 Legislative Session.
* Chair Walters represented the Children and Youth Cabinet before Senator Sobel’s Committee on Children, Families and Elder Affairs and talked to the Senators about Cabinet’s vote. Also speaking in support of this issue were Cabinet members Representative Gayle Harrell, Executive Director Alan Abramowitz and Steve Uhlfelder. Zack Gibson and Rodney MacKinnon were present as well.
* Cabinet presented a united force before the Senate, and voices were heard. This is one of our major goals as a Cabinet.
* Cabinet members are very busy dealing with the state’s most pressing issues. As evidenced during the last meeting, this body will be actionable but the questions of which important issues to impact and how to do that to make the best use of time need to be defined.
* Leave here today with a renewed focus and clear framework to operate by.

The roll was called by Ms. Frenchie Yon and a quorum was confirmed.

The Chair announced that a web button for interagency agreements is now prominently displayed on the home page for Florida’s Center for Child Welfare ([www.centerforchildwelfare.org](http://www.centerforchildwelfare.org)) at the Cabinet’s urging. The Cabinet appreciates the Department of Children and Families Office of Child Welfare for making these important interagency agreements a priority for all professionals working with our most vulnerable children.

**Multi-System Collaboration Workgroup Update**

Chair Walters explained that Florida, through the Children and Youth Cabinet, is one of five communities selected to participate in a federal initiative to promote multi-system collaboration. The program is being run by the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States out of Georgetown University. It has tremendous potential to help the Cabinet achieve its mission to provide services in an integrated and holistic manner. Youth awaiting competency to proceed evaluations is the focus of the Florida Team. The Team includes DCF, DJJ, APD, DOE, AHCA, GAL, Office of State Courts Administrator, Governor’s Office and the Cabinet. Members and staff recognized: Zack Gibson, Sandy Neidert, Lisa Robertson. The team has been process mapping and gathering extensive data to develop recommendations that will better serve these youth. The group is developing protocols and procedures to adequately address high utilizing groups. The final meeting with Georgetown and the other states is October 6, 2015 but the projects will continue into next year. The work plan should be completed in April 2016. Chair Walters would like the recommendations come before the Cabinet at an upcoming meeting.

Sandy Neidert with the Office of State Courts Administrator gave an update on a comprehensive statewide process and resource mapping project. Judge Sandy Karlan pointed to a document listing all agencies and headline indicators which inventories multi-systems groups throughout the state. Cabinet members would like a review of this work product to identify service and resource availability building from locally to the state level.

Members discussed the following recommendations:

* Establish unique identifiers to track utilizers of services through each state agency
* Inventory who is getting what services, what services are available in each community and gaps; how to best spend mental health funding
* Explore how agencies can automate and share info for cross-collaboration and data analytics
* Develop strategic use of resources for outlier high-utilizing groups
* Local government, volunteer organizations, state agencies should work together to develop communication to educate average person about available services for children
* Create children’s budget as required in Cabinet statute

**\*\*\*Action Item: Add to upcoming agenda update on Georgetown Technical Assistance Project and comprehensive process mapping; present recommendations on next steps before the Cabinet**

**Florida Youth Commission: Opportunities and Options**

Jack Levine, founder of the 4Generations Institute, shared information on opportunities and options for the Florida Youth Commission. Mr. Levine shared many different ideas which build upon the strengths of each individual youth and collective impact with a focus on advocacy and civic engagement.

Warm to the concepts, Cainet members pointed to the need to establish strong parameters and management of the commission. There was a suggestion that the Policy Impact Committee have a civic engagement role with the youth and that the Cabinet consider statutory changes to establish the Florida Youth Commisison under the Chief Child Advocate. Mr. Levine committed to working on proposal to submit to Cabinet. Cabinet members agreed to develop the implementation strategy. Chair Walters would like Cabinet members to review the proposal and return with recommendations which also include the role of the policy impact committee

**\*\*\*Action Item: Mr. Levine to develop and share proposal for Cabinet member feedback and development of implementation strategy; add as agenda item to upcoming meeting**

Jason Zaborske from Children’s Week invited all Cabinet members to participate in the upcoming Children’s Week, specifically the Teens Only Town Hall on January 26, 2016 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Break

**Proposed Framework and Next Steps for Florida Children and Youth Cabinet**

Chair Walters opened the second part of the meeting with introductory comments about the shared will of the Cabinet, as evidenced during the previous Cabinet meeting. This body wishes to be actionable but the questions of which important issues to impact and how to do that need to be defined.

Judge Sandy Karlan presented the draft outline of strategic plan and framework. The proposed framework and next steps document are submitted with this meeting summary. She explained the Cabinet’s role in bringing people together. It does not develop programs but can recommend programs. She described its role is to reach out to groups and evaluate data and trends. Judge Karlan suggested and Cabinet members generally agreed that the Cabinet members shall designate a liaison/advisory member that can be a consistent, knowledgeable point of contact for all Cabinet work within that agency. The designated person can serve as back up if the Cabinet member is unable to attend the Standing Committee meetings. The Cabinet needs to increase two-way communication with the public.

Ms. Pariente suggested committees look at a unified budget on child welfare financials and full-time staff dedicated to the Cabinet.

Chair Walters stated the Cabinet comes together to celebrate and support other agencies and speak as one voice.

Representative Harrell stated every Cabinet member should designate a committee member and divide tasks in order to accomplish Cabinet outcomes.

Ms. Anderson stressed the need for a focus on prevention initiatives and to present a united front.

Mr. Gibson gave an update on the Communications Committee. Leveraging the robust state agency communications office framework, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Anti-Bullying Campaign offered consistent Cabinet—branded messaging to all Floridians. The Communications Committee worked in collaboration with state agencies to disseminate pertinent information among networks, including conducting a survey, establishing a press release and speaking points in order to speak with one voice, and sharing Cabinet-branded social media graphics to push out awareness messages.

**\*\*\*Action Item: Communications Committee to develop a survey regarding various awareness opportunities for the Cabinet to promote. Survey to be completed by each Cabinet member.**

Dr. Schaechter said it was one of the best examples of Cabinet collaboration to get the word out about an important issue.

Chair Walters stated coordinated efforts like this will allow the Cabinet to approach the Governor’s Office and show its value and the need for designated staff. She thanked DCF for designating staff thus far.

Senator Sobel stated a funding source for the Cabinet should be identified.

Director Palmer moved to adopt standing committees plan with wordsmithing (submitted with meeting summary) and amendments reflected below. Ms. Pariente seconded. It was passed unanimously. Reflect the following:

* Budget and Resource Committee to replace Finance Committee in draft document
* Consolidate Best Practices Committee and Delivery of Services Committee into one Standing Committee

**\*\*\*Action Item: Cabinet members to recommend where existing workgroups/initiatives fit within Standing Committee Structure.**

**\*\*\*Action Item: Chairs of Standing Committees to develop one-pager defining the following for their respective Standing Committee: scope of work, processes, membership, role, expectations of committee and committee members, primary Cabinet goal(s) and role(s) under which it operates, statutory responsibility**

**Policy Impact Committee Update**

During August meeting, the Policy Impact Committee was tasked with a number of items to bring back for full Cabinet consideration. Chair Walters thanked agency staff from the Department of Health, Department of Education and Department of Children and Families for attending their meeting and providing valuable input. Ellen Anderson is the Chair of the Policy Impact Committee and has since convened a meeting.

Ms. Anderson reviewed the committee’s work process and described collaboration with external stakeholders, including meetings with Drs. Mimi Graham and Brittany Birken and the committee regarding the position of the Cabinet that the first 1,000 days of a child’s life should be the state’s priority. She noted that the Child Care Development Block Grant needs standardizing and that degreed teachers and early learning on-the-job training is also important. Senator Sobel recommended looking into Lottery dollars as possible funding.

Secretary Carroll said priority needs to be on quality child care and making sure children are ready to learn. Need to explore requirements and background checks for afterschool programs, including possible additions needed to statutory requirements.

Director MacKinnon said the Office of Early Learning is working with the Department of Children and Families to review the federal requirements so the committee can push forward statutorily, including potential changes to the reimbursement system and a statewide professional development registry.

Senator Sobel recommend a bill regarding this issue come from the Cabinet.

During the August 27 meeting, the Cabinet heard a presentation about a proposal to remove the five-year waiting period for children of legal immigrants to enroll in Florida KidCare. Background information related to this topic was previously distributed to Cabinet members. A draft letter in support of removing the waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children to enroll in KidCare was discussed at length. Several members raised concerns about taking a position without input from the Governor’s Office and without proper Cabinet processes to follow. Judge Karlan moved to approve letter with exceptions. Ms. Schaechter seconded. Secretary Dudek and Director Palmer abstained. A point of order was made – how can the Cabinet take positions to address situations where members can abstain.

Chair Walters moved they extend the meeting. Approved unanimously.

**Technology Committee Update**

Chair Victoria Vangalis Zepp provided an update for the Technology Committee. The committee is establishing a systems asset map by exploring existing technologies used by state agencies. Topics include human resources training programs, auto tasks, case management systems, online portal, data dictionary, etc. Progress hindered by Sunshine rules. Recommend full-time staff dedicated to assisting with tasks and communication between Cabinet members. Framework will be submitted at the next meeting.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**Adjournment**

Cabinet members agreed to hold the next Florida Children and Youth Cabinet meeting on Monday, January 11, 2016 beginning at 1 p.m. in Tallahassee.

Chair Walters adjourned the meeting.