

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2016

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.

Attendance Summary

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet members in attendance:

- Chair Wansley Walters
- Secretary Mike Carroll
- Secretary Christina Daly
- Director Rodney MacKinnon
- Surgeon General Dr. John Armstrong
- Secretary Elizabeth Dudek
- Executive Director Alan Abramowitz
- Director Zackary Gibson
- Mr. David Lawrence, Jr.
- 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
- Commissioner Pam Stewart

Staff in attendance: Tim Parson, Melanie Orozco, 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 discussed the possibility of having six hour meetings in order to be able to conduct additional business.

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

Chair Walters reminded members of the Florida “Teens Only Town Hall” meeting on January 26th for Children’s Week and encouraged members to attend the festivities.

Chair Walters requested that members review the 2015 Annual Report draft and make any recommended changes or additions so that the report can be submitted by February 1.

The Chair announced that she had both happy and sad news as Cabinet Member David Lawrence was appointed to the Board of Trustees for FAMU but would therefore be unable to continue to serve on the Cabinet. As a result, this would be his last meeting as a Cabinet member. Chair Walters mentioned several of his accomplishments and noted that he was one of the original members of the Children and Youth Cabinet. Chair Walters presented Mr. Lawrence with an award honoring him for his accomplishments and contributions. The award also made him a honorary advocate and member of the Children and Youth Cabinet.

Presentation on Direct File

Tania Galloni of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Sal Nuzzo of the James Madison Institute provided a presentation on direct file reform legislation being considered by the Florida Legislature. The presenters discussed how Florida was #1 in the country for charging children in the adult system and also leads the nation in the number of children in adult prison. They pointed out that due process varies across judicial circuits and is dependent upon where in the state you are being prosecuted, as there is a “justice by geography” that can determine if a child is incarcerated as a youth or as an adult. Additionally, non-violent offences account for half of the children involved with direct file and reform would essentially stop the 34% of children who recidivate.

Members made the following comments:

- Steve Uhlfelder pointed out that prosecutors are lobbying for direct file to be changed
- Judge Karlan added that the Florida Bar is supportive of these changes
- Dave Lawrence said that the bills have overwhelmingly favorable votes for these changes
- Justice Pariente stated that the Cabinet needed to support legislation for long term legal attorneys and quality of life for the child
- Representative Harrell suggested that the Policy Impact Committee draft a general letter of support, email to all the members, if it garners 2/3 support, letter sent to the Legislature

*****Action Item: The Cabinet agreed to circulate a general letter of support for direct file reform, that if it has 2/3 support of the members, would be sent to the Legislature.**

Florida Youth Commission: Leadership Development for Florida’s Future

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.

Justice Pariente expressed some reservations about the proposal as presented citing the need for improvements on outcomes for these children. She also stated that the work of the Cabinet should include advocacy skills and give a voice to that age group with their current issues. Justice Pariente noticed that Florida Youth Shine was not listed and that their voice should be heard.

Mr. Levine pointed out that there needs to be a curriculum in place for success and it is important to incorporate a youth advisory body for structure and data so that youth’s voices will be included from all the systems statewide.

*****Action Item: The Cabinet voted to allow Mr. Levine to continue to develop and share his proposal for Cabinet member feedback and development of an implementation strategy.**

Caring for Florida's Children with Serious and Chronic Medical Conditions

Dr. Armstrong provided a presentation on how the Department of Health is looking for ideas for improvement in delivery of medical services in the treatment of children. He highlighted some of the statistics of the program, that enrollment is 4.5 million (half are Medicaid), 200,000 in CHIP, and 63,000 are in CMS-MMA enrollment managed care plan. Dr. Armstrong also spoke on the screening process and subsequent annual rescreening processes.

Members made the following comments:

- Secretary Dudek stated that a 2015 consumer survey of the MMA program had an 81% satisfaction response and of these cases, 65% of cases scored even with the national average.
- Justice Pariente pointed out that of these 63,000 children, we need intensive interventions to mitigate against lifelong conditions for those under the age of 3.
- Senator Sobel expressed concerns regarding the program and asked why autism and childhood diabetes were not included in services.

*****Action Item: The Cabinet agreed to post the hotline number provided by Dr. Armstrong for parents who have questions or are having problems with the program on the Children and Youth Cabinet website.**

Overview of Agency Legislative Budget Requests

- **Elizabeth Dudek, Sec., Agency for Health Care Administration**
 - Need to keep proposals going for session
 - Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) are needed for in-patient and out-patient services and nursing care facilities
- **Steve Uhlfelder, Esq.**
 - Referred to Kidcare bills that were supported by the Cabinet – Senator Garcia – SB12 and Rep. Diaz – HB89
- **Alan Abramowitz, Exec. Dir., Guardian ad Litem**
 - There has been a 20% increase in budget requests to 1 million children in dependency court
 - \$1.3 million to fund 1st 1000 Days
 - Professionalizing child welfare to certify staff and support volunteers
- **Mike Carroll, Sec., FL Dept. of Children and Families**
 - Budget requests from DCF for this legislative session include funding for child safety in child welfare system as case load continues to grow
 - Home services to improve capacity of number in system and to have eyes on the child – need to have comprehensive reporting for family life setting
 - Human trafficking services asking for expansion of the \$20 million – new dollars
 - \$19 million for community action teams which are focusing on substance abuse and other factors which are geographically based

- Costs for health and medical illnesses and services needed to reduce the necessity to seek out additional long term care
- \$3.1 million for safety upgrades in the state hospitals – additional training for staff
- **Christina K. Daly, Sec., Dept. of Juvenile Justice**
 - \$1.9 million to continue the 1 to 8 staff ratio with other contracts and to expand services to Boys & Girls Club, Pace Center for Girls, etc.
 - \$8.2 million on building maintenance for safety and security issues
 - Further contract monitoring and management
- **Rodney MacKinnon, Dir., Office of Early Learning**
 - Health and Human Services (HHS) \$1 billion to those developmentally disabled, including more money for wait list (approx. 20,000 people) and QPI assessors (Asking for 30 additional positions) to determine of who is going through system
 - Will need \$1 million for sustainable program with disability to determine what employment they may have
 - Need money for contract management for facilities
- **Justice Barbara Pariente, Esq.**
 - Core budget – positions for case management – need 52 additional positions – needed to efficiently process cases
- **Commissioner Pam Stewart**
 - Budget is there to put students first
 - K-12 system is a culturally diverse population with 2.8 million students
 - 2016-2017 – \$20 billion in public schools for digital initiatives – dedicated funds
 - \$7,200 per pupil
 - Highest state funding ever in Florida
 - \$86.8 million to fund low performing schools
 - \$70 million for school security and safety learning environment
 - \$1 million to our business partners already lined up
 - Florida College System for 2016-2017 – \$2 billion
 - \$1.2 billion for operating funds and improve performance of students
 - \$10 million for re-certifications for job workforce
 - \$20 million for technical centers to rapidly respond to job markets – this also includes equipment costs

Business and Leadership Institute for Early Learning Presentation

Robyn Perlman, Pres./Founder of the Business and Leadership Institute for Early Learning, presented to the Cabinet on their program for bring resourcefulness to the forefront to construct new ideas and for making monetary investments into small businesses instead of “in-care.” Robyn pointed out that child care practitioners should be viewed as child care entrepreneurs.

Ms. Perlman explain the idea behind the business institute is to focus on possibilities with the guidance of top corporate businesses and real estate businesses for lease/location guidance. Some important considerations surround prized locations and leases for child care centers that are needed

to negotiate with vendors and for future demographics, such as enrollment patterns, school readiness and monetary expectations. Additionally, enrollment needs to be based on a 5 year period rather than a year to year enrollment which will create a culture for business to thrive.

Update on the First 1000 Days Cabinet Priority

Diana Ragbeer, from the Children's Trust, provided the Cabinet with an update on the 1st 1000 days created in 2014. She stated that there has been a \$40 per child increase. Priorities include business cost analysis, models taking place in committee bill and federal money coming down for level 2 screening and with registered offenders. Diana also pointed out that HB943 is moving forward this week, which would serve to standardize the process

Policy Impact Committee Update – Early Steps legislation

- Ellen Anderson, Chair of the Policy Impact Committee, provided an update on the Early Steps Legislation
 - As of 12/17, senate bill requires reporting and block grant authorization
- Early Steps – Impact statement needs broad language for 1st 1000 days
- Serving existing children better and interacting with the doctors
- Mileage for in-home care and programs needed there
 - This language needs to be added to bill as an amendment to build provider network
- Streamline application process with ACHA and DOH to get services as quickly as possible

Judge Karlan requested that the Cabinet develop a general statement for legislation with the capability to approve bills and check if language meets the committee's goals.

*****Action Item: The Cabinet agreed to endorse the principles imbedded in the bill and its legislative intent through a policy impact statement.**

Communications Committee Update – Communications Survey

- Zachary Gibson, Chair of the Communications Committee, provided an update:
 - Responses on survey; the purpose of Letter E and I
 - No cost, easy operation to give awareness and visual perspective – issues should touch all agencies
 - What are we willing to support collectively
- Prenatal transition to adulthood
 - Scope of framework – developmental milestones
 - Greater opportunity on local level
- Newsletter with the ability to incorporate more information and perspective on communication

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to speak.

Adjournment

Chair Walters discussed the date of the next meeting that will be at the end of March or beginning of April. Justice Barbara Pariente requested that the Cabinet generate a yearly calendar with all four scheduled cabinet. Chair Walters adjourned the meeting.