Minutes from Policy Impact Committee Telephone Conference on August 17, 2018

Attending:

Sandy Karlan

Lindsey Zander

Diana Ragbeer

Zackery Gibson

Sandy Neidert

Dr. Brittany Birken, Florida Children’s Council

Robby Holroyd, Broward Children’s Council

The meeting commenced at 9:00 am

Several matters were discussed during this meeting. The most significant thematic issue was developing an objective lens through which to evaluate legislation that the Children and Youth Cabinet can support.

We discussed how members of the CYC will likely change after the 2018 election and that we need to plan a retreat for 2019 to educate the new members on the Cabinet’s three primary priority areas and process of the Policy Impact Committee.

Diana discuss how our priority of addressing poverty issues includes childcare, health and housing and how this can be raised at the retreat. The issues regarding KidCare include children that are eligible but are not accessing it; and how to increase the federal poverty level.

Dr. Birken stated that she had three areas of concern:

1. They have started the conversation with legislators about the “fiscal cliff” – and how do we message this going forward?

2. KidCare and children’s health insurance – with the new legislators how do we teach them about the CYC and our priorities?

3. Is the CYC interested in creating objective criteria to evaluated legislation, i.e. the impact that changes to SNAP had on families. Specifically, with any legislation, what are the implications for families in poverty with young children?

The policy impact committee was very receptive to Dr. Birken’s suggestions.

The statute creating the Children and Youth Cabinet mandates that the CYC create and share with the Legislature “a children and youth impact statement for evaluating proposed legislation, requested appropriations, and programs.”

The committee agreed that we would work with the following lens to develop the policy impact statement going forward:

1. We would incorporate the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES) conducted by Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

 a. Including the best practices of Trauma Informed approaches

 b. In order to test the impact of legislation to child development

2. 2Gen approach which addresses fiscal impacts with the goals:

 a. As to children and adults, reduce government dependence

 b. Create economic security by stabilizing the family unit to achieve improved outcomes for children.

 c. This includes discussion of the “fiscal cliff” – in which some legislative changes have unintended consequences of actually harming the economic security of the family.

The Committee will start work immediately to refine these objective measures. This includes working on a brochure type of handout for legislators beginning with a concept such as circulated by Sandy Neidert and reviewing past policy impact statements of the CYC to determine if they are specific in addressing these two concepts.

Finally, the Policy Impact Committee will again recommend that work begin on a Children’s Budget that is required by statute and was previously prepared.