**Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Technology Workgroup Meeting**

**Friday, February 27, 2017**

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Florida Department of Children and Families Headquarters, Building 1, Room #132

1317 Winewood Blvd., 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 Technology Workgroup members in attendance:**

* Chair Victoria Zepp
* Joe Rice, Department of Health
* Deborah Stevens, Agency for State Technology
* Melanie May, Office of Early Learning
* Lili Copp, Head Start State Collaboration Office

**Guests via Phone:**

* Heidi Fox, Agency for Health Care Administration
* Mike Magnuson, Agency for Health Care Administration
* Steve Davis, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
* Greg Ramsey, Guardian ad Litem
* Seth Ulcher, Department of Juvenile Justice
* Amanda Slama, Department of Juvenile Justice
* Sherry Jackson, Department of Juvenile Justice

**Staff in Attendance:** Meeting Start Time: 3:15 p.m.

* Lindsey Zander Meeting End Time: 4:44 p.m.

**Proceedings**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

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

The roll was called by Lindsey Zander and a quorum was confirmed.

**Kids Count Data Report**

Chair Zepp introduced Dr. Norin Dollard from Florida KIDS COUNT and the Department of Child and Family Studies at the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at University of South Florida.

Dr. Dollard looked at what other state cabinets around the nation are doing in terms of data on children in the welfare system. She said there is a Kids Count report for every state to provide reliable data at the state level that state officials can act upon. There is a data book that comes out each summer.

Annie E. Casey has ranked Florida as 40th in the nation for child well-being. This rank is based on

* Economic Well-being
* Education
* Health
* Family and Community

Much of the information in the KIDS COUNT report is more current than the US Census data. The state by state data is compared to nationally aggregated data.

Dr. Dollard also introduces some of the campaigns Annie E. Casey has run in the past, such as how incarceration affects families, healthcare for children and how many Florida youth are currently in poverty. She explains how the data from these campaigns are then used as indicators to see what changes would have to be implemented to put the state at number one in the category.

She also spoke about how the different agencies and offices that deal with child welfare in Florida collaborate with the KIDS COUNT data to so that the state can be accurately measured by the indicator criteria.

Dr. Dollard shows workgroup members what the Florida KIDS COUNT dashboard looks like compared to other state's dashboards. Chair Zepp expresses the importance of having clear information on the Children and Youth Cabinet for parents and caregivers to be able to easily and successfully navigate through information pertinent to their children.

**Lilli Copp Presentation on Early Childhood Data**

Lilli Copp work with Early Head Start Grant programs. They are families that data is collected about must be eligible for Head Start subsidies and must be at 100 percent of the poverty level. Miami-Dade County is the biggest grantee, serving over 7,000 children. They also partner with the Early Learning Coalition and United Way.

Lilli Copp explains that sometimes those who would qualify for a Head Start program end up not qualifying because a lack of coordination on the part of the agencies and organizations that should be able to identify these children. She had spoken to a Head Start Coordinator in Utah who had received a grant to start a Head Start data system which would better track the youth affected by the program. The data system uses unique identifiers to collect the data. However, in the midst of this program, there was a data breech and the program was not used for years after. A data system like this would not be an overnight project, however Ms. Copp has a toolkit from the program developers that looks at the mission, vision and purpose of the data collection, as well as the feasibility of a data collection system like that to use for child welfare purposes. Ms. Copp believes that this type of data sharing system would make a huge impact.

Chair Zepp expresses concerns with current data sharing systems about attempting to see the full picture of the child while using unique identifiers. Ms. Copp explains that the Department of Education has begun working with unique identifiers through the 67th school district. The DOE would like to have this project going by July 1. Chair Zepp also suggests the Office of Child Welfare as a research resource for this data sharing project. Ms. Copps expresses concerns over who will have the authority over the data, whether that be the agency, the state or the federal government. Chair Zepp would like to have access to the program that the Department of Education is using in the 67th school district. Ms. Copps explains that right now the information would just be collective data, but that she will continue to inform the workgroup of developments.

Chair Zepp concludes that there is not a national system of data sharing for child welfare, however she believes that aiming for a state-wide system is a good goal. She said Florida was invited to comment on the national standards of child welfare data sharing, and currently there is a feasibility study being conducted on this. Many representatives from Florida agencies involved in child welfare practices will be on the review committee for this.

**Action Item Updates**

**Communication Initiative for the Children and Youth Cabinet Website**

The Children and Youth Cabinet would like to begin the transition of it’s website, http://www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet/, becoming a clearing house for parents to use as a resource. The Cabinet’s Technology Workgroup requests that all communication directors of the agencies represented in the Cabinet briefly submit agency information they believe is pertinent to children and youth to be included on the Cabinet’s website. This serves the purpose of making information pertaining to the children and youth of Florida more easily accessible.

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Katie Strickland**

<http://resourcedirectory.apd.myflorida.com/resourcedirectory/>

*APD maintains our Resource Directory as an informational service to help individuals with disabilities learn about available resources and organizations in their respective areas.*

**Department of Juvenile Justice, Amanda Fortuna-Slama**

**Department of Juvenile Justice Youth & Families Resource Page**

<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/youth-families>

Description: The Department of Juvenile Justice’s Youth & Families Resource Page is for youth, families, guardians, and victims. It includes information on the juvenile justice process, family engagement brochures, and DJJ services.

**Department of Juvenile Justice Community Resource Guide**

<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/partners/policies-resources/community-resource-guide>

Description: The Department of Juvenile Justice Community Resource Guide helps staff, parents, and stakeholders locate resources available to youth and families in their local communities.

**Request for Release of Juvenile Records**

<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/department-forms/request-for-release-of-juvenile-records.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Description: For confidential youth records, a notarized release for records request must be sent to the Department of Juvenile Justice (or by a court order or subpoena). The request for release of juvenile records must be completed by the legal guardian if the youth is a minor, 17 years of age or younger, or the youth must complete the form if they are 18 years of age or older.

**Department of Juvenile Justice’s Office of Prevention Helpline Number**

1-866-757-0634

Description: The Department of Juvenile Justice’s Office of Prevention and Victim Services Helpline is an informational line that parents or guardians can call if they are concerned about their child’s behavior and feel they are at risk. The helpline will match parents and/or guardians to appropriate resources and services. Note: The Helpline is not a counseling service number. All calls connect to a voicemail system that is monitored daily.

**Guardian Ad-Litem, Debra Ervin**

Thanks for the opportunity to send along resources for parents to be shared by the Children’s Cabinet.  We suggest the following URL, which is the link to the GAL website:

[Guardianadlitem.org](http://Guardianadlitem.org)

**Florida Department of Children and Families, Jessica Sims**

https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childwelfare/caregivers/

*This resource provides information about child development from birth through the teen years, tips for creating the stimulating and nurturing environments children need, tips for managing the challenges of family life, and contact information for valuable community resources.*

http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/backgroundscreening/

*The Department’s site dedicated to providing information to our providers and community partners specific to the background screening process of applicants, current employees and volunteers.*

http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline

*The Florida Abuse Hotline accepts reports 24 hours a day and 7 days a week of known or suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment. This page also gives information about mandatory reporting.*

http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/independent-living

*Information concerning independent youth and their caregivers or other caring adults. The website includes resources and useful links, including information on tuition and fee exemptions for youth who have aged out of the foster system, or were adopted after the age of 16, and who plan to attend a higher education institution.*

**Agency for Health Care Administration, Heidi Fox**

**Florida Medicaid Managed Care**

<http://www.flmedicaidmanagedcare.com/>

Description: Florida’s Medicaid program provides access to health care for low income families and individuals. The Medicaid program is administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration while eligibility is determined by the Department of Children and Families.

**FloridaHealthFinder.gov**

<http://www.floridahealthfinder.gov/index.html>

Description: FloridaHealthFinder.gov is a free resource that provides easy access to health care information. Through health care quality comparison tolls, the health encyclopedia and many other recourses, Floridians can use this website to learn about medical conditions, compare health care facilities and providers, find health care resources and much more.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**Adjournment**

Chair Zepp announced that the next meeting date will be **March 17, 2017**.

Next Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting Date will be Monday, March 20, 1:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Tallahassee, FL

With no other business and an announcement that meeting minutes and action steps from the current meeting will be provided, the meeting was adjourned at: 4:44 p.m.