



Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tallahassee Community College
Economic & Workforce Development Building, Room # 105
444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. Please contact Frenchie Yon at Frenchie.Yon@eog.myflorida.com to obtain meeting materials or visit www.flgov.com/child_advocacy_cyc/.

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Members in attendance:

- David Wilkins, Chairman, Florida Children and Youth Cabinet, and Secretary, Department of Children and Families
- Alan Abramowitz, Executive Director, Guardian ad Litem
- John Armstrong, M.D., State Surgeon General and Secretary, Department of Health
- Elizabeth Dudek, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
- Zackary Gibson, Chief Child Advocate and Director, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection
- David Lawrence, President, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation
- Barbara Palmer, Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Barbara J. Pariente, Justice, Florida Supreme Court
- Berthy de la Rosa-Aponte, Designee of the Attorney General
- Judy Schaechter, M.D., Interim Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- Steven J. Uhlfelder, Uhlfelder and Associates, PA

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Members unable to attend:

- Toni Crawford, Chairperson, Early Learning Coalition of Duval
- Gayle Harrell, State Representative
- Pam Stewart, Interim Commissioner, Department of Education
- Wansley Walters, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Members' Staff in attendance:

- Kim Barnhill, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
- Alex Kelly, Chief of Staff, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Rose Patterson, Chief of Court Improvement, Office of State Court Administrator
- Lisa Robertson, Strategic Planning Supervisor, Agency for Persons with Disabilities



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The Cabinet meeting was called to order by Chairman David Wilkins, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families, who welcomed and thanked Cabinet members for being available to participate in this strategic planning session. This session is important for the Cabinet to discuss and assess what has been accomplished over the previous years and determine what direction and focus the Cabinet will have in the future.

Roll call was taken by Frenchie Yon. Chairman Wilkins reviewed the Strategic Planning Agenda and introduced the meeting facilitator, Mr. Tony Carvajal of Carvajal Consulting and Management.

Chairman Wilkins opened the meeting by providing an overview of Florida's children and youth which focused on the diversity throughout the state, how the population is somewhat transient and how the Cabinet can work together to address the needs. From this, discussion amongst Cabinet members occurred on topics to include: agency collaboration, focusing on policy, reducing duplication, Medicaid Expansion and how decisions will determine future work of the Cabinet, developing a children's budget to include process mapping, the Healthy Weight Initiative and children aging out of foster care, including those who are developmentally disabled. One common denominator identified was the need to involve education and local school systems.

The Cabinet discussed creating workgroups on Medicaid Expansion and the Affordable Care Act changes but agreed to wait until further information was available on how these may impact the state. The Agency for Health Care Administration will provide information and updates to the Cabinet. The Healthy Weight Initiative will continue to be led by the Department of Health who will bring information and suggestions to the Cabinet to allow state agencies to respond and implement the initiative, but no official workgroup was created. Justice Barbara Pariente brought up The State of Florida's Child report that was updated in 2011 as a way of measuring the Cabinet's progress towards the headline indicators. It was agreed to continue measuring progress towards each headline indicator through the data sources identified in the report and what each agency could provide.

Director Zack Gibson presented background information on the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet to include Florida Statutes 402.56, legislation which created the Cabinet in 2007. The first strategic plan and thirteen headline indicators were discussed. Dr. Judy Schaechter provided additional information on the history of the Cabinet, how the headline indicators were developed and how agencies were to work together to address the indicators. Information from other states was referenced in the handout which provided a national perspective on what other Cabinets are doing. Director Gibson updated the Cabinet on the workgroups and initiatives of the Cabinet in 2012.



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Action for the following existing workgroups was suggested:

- *Technology Collaboration Workgroup* – Department of Juvenile Justice will take the lead coordinating with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the State Court Administrator’s Office of Court Improvement;
- *Multi-System Children and Youth Workgroup* – Continue to monitor progress and provide updates to the Cabinet;
- *Children’s Budget Workgroup* – Rename to the Prevention Investment Strategy Workgroup;
- *Child Death Review Teams Workgroup* – Proposed statutory language has been developed to consolidate death review teams. An update will be provided to the Cabinet along with any additional action needed;
- *Human Trafficking Workgroup* – An update will be provided to the Cabinet and will look to transfer out of workgroup status to operation; and
- *Children and Youth Collaboration Services Workgroup* – Continue this workgroup which had infused the work of the *Youth Services Collaboration Workgroup*.
- *Interagency Background Screening Workgroup* – The workgroup will end as legislation has passed and a Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse is under development.

Mr. Tony Carvajal reviewed and discussed responses received from a Pre-Strategic Planning Survey that was provided to Cabinet members. After much discussion, the Cabinet decided to restructure the way they approached the thirteen Headline Indicators. Instead of focusing on four indicators, Cabinet members will concentrate on each focus area along with their corresponding indicators. Cabinet members will be asked to make presentations at future Cabinet meetings, reviewing the areas of focus, reporting on the status of indicators, and discuss opportunities for state agencies to collaborate to improve the state’s position. The Chairman asked those working on indicators to be specific on 1) how the indicator ties to the work of the Cabinet and 2) what specific “asks” or recommendations might be.



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Chair/Cabinet Assignments	Area of Focus	Headline Indicators
Surgeon General John Armstrong Dr. Judy Schaechter	Every Florida Child is Healthy	1.1 Mothers beginning prenatal care in the first trimester
		1.2 Children with health insurance
		1.3 Children with a medical home
Mr. David Lawrence <i>Workgroup Members</i> Ms. Toni Crawford Ms. Berthy de la Rosa-Aponte Director Barbara Palmer Department of Education Office of Early Learning	Every Florida Child is Ready to Learn and Succeed	2.1 Births to women with fewer than 12 years of education
		2.2 Children who are read to by their parents or relative caregivers
		2.3 Children whose kindergarten entry assessment scores show they are ready for school
		2.4 Early childhood staff with bachelor's degree
Secretary David Wilkins	Every Florida Child Lives in a Stable and Nurturing Family	3.1 Children in poverty
		3.2 Children who are maltreated
		3.3 Teen births
Justice Barbara Pariente Mr. Steven Uhlfelder	Every Florida Child Lives in a Safe and Supportive Community	4.1 Domestic Violence
		4.2 Homeless children
		4.3 Children in supportive neighborhoods

The Cabinet also agreed to create four additional workgroups for 2013:

1. **Prevention Investment Strategy Workgroup**, Co-Chaired by Secretary Wansley Walters, Department of Juvenile Justice and Director Barbara Palmer, Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

Objectives and Guiding Questions:

- a. Catalogue where dollars are currently being spent to support or benefit children and youth in Florida.
 - What agencies invest what dollars where?*
 - How is money used (e.g., prevention, services, etc...)?*
 - Is this getting us where we want to be?*
 - Are the investments effective? Sufficient? Duplicative?*
 - Does the budget help us understand investments being made?*
 - What "buckets"/categories involved (revenue sources and/or required investments)?*
 - Do we have a unified or fragmented approach?*



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- b. Analysis of best “upfront” investment to save “backend” expenditures.
What do research and metrics show/prove? Evidence?
How does this help improve children’s outcome?
How do transition to this new approach? What different investments strategies would be required to help agencies deal with change?
- c. Develop a five-year investment plan / long-term picture.

- 2. **Effective Early Childcare Delivery Workgroup**, Chaired by David Lawrence with workgroup members to include Ms. Toni Crawford, Chair of the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County, Ms. Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte, Designee of the Attorney General, Director Barbara Palmer, the Commissioner of the Department of Education and the Director of the Office of Early Learning.

Objectives and Guiding Questions:

- a. Understand cash flow and flexibility- or lack thereof- in early childcare funding.
Who has the dollars? How do they flow?
Distinguish self-funded versus government money?
What strings are attached? How much flexibility exists?
Are coalitions using funds to maximize services to children?
How could we apply dollars differently to maximize impact?
How measure/evaluate effectiveness? What standards are in existence? What different standards, if any, should we use?
What cross-agency activities or investments are possible? Can early childhood systems support case management?
Do the facilities have the proper standards and training to handle other agency activities?
- b. Identify best practices for increasing the impact or value of services for disadvantaged and/or “related” youth (e.g., youth already in the system).
How can we identify the child at risk before they become at risk?
Does “the system” know when an at risk child’s sibling is in system?
What is being done in Florida, elsewhere?
Engaging family to identify potential issues
How should we engage, communicate with, and educate law enforcement to help children?



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- c. Organizational/System efficiency.
 - Why do we have the same function in multiple agencies (e.g. contract review in DCF and OEL)?*
 - What duplications can we eliminate while still maintaining integrity and impact?*
- d. Evaluate if degrees in early education make a difference in outcomes?

3. **Crossover Children Workgroup**, Co-Chaired by Secretary Wansley Walters and Representative Gayle Harrell.

Objectives and Guiding Questions:

- a. Define and identify who the “crossover children” are within the state.
 - Where are they?*
 - Do we have an accurate count?*
 - Do all the agencies touching this population have all the information about the child?*
 - How can we calculate/project the consequences of changes in policy, e.g. does it move child to other part of system?*
- b. Identify opportunities for wrap around services/cost-sharing.
 - How much money being used, from all pots? Could it be pooled for benefit to kids? (Right service versus focus on where the money is coming from?)*
 - Can care team reallocate money?*
 - What is the savings from diversion, if the child does not go into the delinquency system?*

4. **Intervening in the At-Risk Cycle Workgroup**, Co-Chaired by Secretary Elizabeth Dudek, Agency for Health Care Administration and Dr. Judy Schaechter.

Objectives and Guiding Questions:

- a. Quantifying the cost and consequences of teen pregnancy.
 - What is the situation today?*
 - What are the impacts to individuals and the system?*
 - Is there the availability of health insurance to teen population?*



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- b. Identify strategies to reduce the number of teen births.
Research and best practices related to lowering the number of teen birth?
How to measure effectiveness?
Relationship of alcohol or drugs?
Education strategies for various groups including:
- Families
 - Kids
 - In hospital and support systems
 - Schools
- Women- focused strategies.*
Fatherhood strategies (e.g., to address issue of boys avoiding responsibility of fatherhood)
- c. Identify all stakeholders and providers available to address the issue.
Who should be engaged? Are they now?
What are the initiatives addressing this?
How do agencies deal with or respond to teen pregnancy?
Integration across agencies?
How much money applied here? Budget lines?
What services/birth control provided/available? Facilities posture on contraception?
What do schools do?
Persons with disabilities risk?

For the existing ***Children and Youth Collaboration Services Workgroup***, chaired by Director Alan Abramowitz, Guardian Ad Litem, the work of the Youth Services Collaboration Workgroup will be infused and the following objective and guiding questions were identified:

Objective and Guiding Questions:

- 1) Identify ways to streamline or make better.
Why were they created?
Who sits on?
Should it continue?
Are there better ways to deliver services or use dollars?
Administrative flexibility?
What statutes need to be addressed?



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Public comments were given by Jack Levine who shared three topics with the Cabinet:

- The importance of tracking prevention services for their cost-effectiveness and cost-avoidance potential across systems. The value of keeping research-proven programs at the forefront of budget deliberations so that public dollars are put to best use and the expense of remediation is reduced.
- Recognizing and respecting Florida's wide diversities – ethnic, racial, cultural, age and family composition – so that services are structured to accommodate how individuals can best access the vital programs they need to improve their health, education and social needs. Special emphasis on policies and programs that are multi-generational would provide greater impact as Florida's retired citizens can be of great benefit to younger generations.
- School exclusion policies such as suspension and expulsion need to be audited so that we understand the impact of these actions on the students, their families and the community at large. Since Florida's schools FTE funding is not calculated across the school year, but rather on pre-determined weeks in the Fall and Spring, there needs to be an assessment as to whether districts are reducing suspensions/expulsions during those weeks, but not otherwise when funding is calculated. This is particularly important in the pre-teen middle school years when exclusion practices are most utilized. Racial disparities are also evident in how districts implement their discipline policies.

Chairman Wilkins adjourned the meeting.

Documents filed with these minutes:

- Agenda
- Strategic Planning Powerpoint Presentation
- Florida Statutes 402.56
- Focus Areas and 13 Headline Indicators
- Pre-Strategic Planning Survey Responses
- Progress Report on Florida's Children
- 2007 CYC Strategic Plan