

April 13, 2012

Dear Members of the Children and Youth Cabinet,

The Florida Youth Commission, in relation to its theme of “youth engagement”, will be reaching out to youth organizations across the state to communicate ideas, encourage community action, and better represent Florida’s children and teens. The Youth Commission would like to identify fifteen major youth organizations across Florida to be key stakeholders in this effort which we will work more closely over the next year. The Commission will ultimately reach out to far more than fifteen groups, but fifteen is a good, achievable number for the first steps.

The Youth Outreach Committee of the Florida Youth Commission is requesting that you and the other Cabinet members identify one or more youth organizations, clubs, or other groups across Florida that could potentially be added to the list of fifteen stakeholders. These organizations should be large enough to reach a significant and diverse population of Florida’s youth. Examples include the Florida Youth Council, Youth Advisory Committee, and Florida Youth Leadership Academy; however, we are looking for a wide and varied range of organizations for this project.

Once the Youth Outreach committee has a list of the fifteen stakeholders, we will contact these groups, introduce the Youth Commission, and begin regular contact to learn their views on issues currently facing children and teens in Florida. Through this contact we will inform the Cabinet of our findings during future Cabinet meetings and develop a year-end summary of findings. Additionally, a critical component to youth engagement is working with these organizations to take action in local communities to address problems these groups feel passionately about. For example, a school club could raise awareness about the dangers of texting while driving, or a church youth group could raise awareness about childhood hunger. There are many challenges confronting Florida’s children and families today, and we hope that by approaching these on a community level together we will be able to improve the outcomes for Florida’s children and youth.

Please email me by May 10 at m.evan.morse@gmail.com with any recommendations of youth organizations to the Florida Youth Commission as soon as possible, with the name, description of the organization, and contact information. We also encourage you to visit our Facebook page and “Like” us if you are able to do so at <http://www.facebook.com/FloridaYouthCommission>. The Florida Youth Commission appreciates your help; we could not do this work without you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Morse
Youth Outreach Chair