

**Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
Youth Service Collaboration Team (YSCT)
Minutes – March 20, 2012**

The following were in attendance.

Jennifer Lange, Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Theda Roberts, Co-chair, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
Leah Strong, Office of Adoption and Child Protection (OACP)
D.D. Pickle, Agency for Health Care Administration
Holly Carson, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
Bettye Hype, Department of Education (DOE)
David Wheeler, DOE
Pat Wilson, DJJ
Melvin Herring, DOE
Jessica Darling, DOE
Isabelle Potts, DEO
Mason Jackson, Broward Workforce One
Elizabeth Gaines, Forum for Youth Investment (FYI), Washington D.C.
Jennifer Ouellette, FYI
Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO, Broward Children's Services Council (BCSC)
Carl Dasse, BSCS
Audrey Sting, BSCS,
Karen Swartzbaugh Ghazi, BSCS
Monty Larsen, BCSC
Sue Gallagher, BSCS
Deborah Forshaw, BSCS

On February 24, the Broward County Children Services Council (CSC) presented a proposal to blend federal funding to provide supports and services with the goal of increasing high school graduations and post-secondary education or employment at targeted Broward schools. This meeting was dedicated to addressing specific implementation barriers related to Supplemental Educational Services (SES), 21st Century and the Workforce Innovation Act funding. Representatives from the Department of Education, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the local Broward workforce board, and the Forum for Youth Investment joined the conversation during the March 20 team meeting.

Pilot Discussion

Broward CSC has been unable to blend SES and 21st Century funds and services without a waiver to federal rules that would allow the CSC to subcontract for these services. SES provides 15 hours a week of tutoring for approximately two months to eligible students. Melvin Herring, DOE, stated that SES will now be administered by the state, rather than federally, under recently passed House Bill 7127 and federal waiver authority. A new process under a waiver may be requested during the rule making process that will take place by late summer. Mr. Herring's office will notify the Broward CSC when the

rule making processed is noticed. Once noticed, a rule workshop can be requested. Jennifer Lange will identify a subgroup to review current rule 6A-1.039 and assist in developing proposed language. The parental choice procedure needs to be streamlined so that parents understand their child's needs and match those needs with the most appropriate provider. Mr. Herring cautioned that SES funds are limited and there is no guarantee that all SES eligible students will receive services. Under the prior federal regulations, services for eligible youth were prioritized based on certain criteria. Prioritization can now be addressed through the state rule making process.

The CSC proposal includes services under the Workforce Investment Act. An additional waiver may be required that provides an incentive for the local workforce board to serve younger youth and allow out-of-school services for alternative school students who need the additional support in order to succeed. Elizabeth Gaines indicated that the federal Department of Labor is engaged in this potential pilot. As we move forward with a waiver request, sharp intermediate measures for younger youth must be developed so that the local workforce board can maintain needed outcomes. Isabelle Potts cautioned that we will need very strong justification for a waiver initiative. Eligibility and information sharing for this population is also an issue. FCAT scores cannot currently be used to establish educational need, so a federal change to allow that instead of more testing should be considered. Similarly, Mason Jackson indicated return to a policy allowing a student's eligibility for free or reduced lunch as a proxy for WIA financial eligibility should be reevaluated by the federal government. Elizabeth Gaines suggested agreements be established between agencies that would allow information sharing for purposes of a Broward CSC pilot. The other option for information sharing is through parental consent. Changed rules on the use of and eligibility for USDA funded snacks also merits inclusion in the pilot.

An obstacle to youth employment is that employers are hesitant to hire a youth with a criminal record. The Broward County State Attorney's Office offers pro bono assistance to juveniles eligible for record expunction. There are two expunction opportunities for youth – upon successful completion of a diversion program and a one-time opportunity for expunction in a person's lifetime. A concern is that using the lifetime opportunity for a non-diversionary juvenile leaves no opportunity for an adult expunction. Another concern for youth is the \$75 expunction fee.

Given the necessary waivers, CSC will identify 21st century high schools that already receive summer youth employment opportunities and add workforce and supplemental education services. Other pilot discussions need to consider outcome measures, stakeholder participation, eligibility, and auditing requirements.

Cabinet member Updates

YSCT members continue to reach out to the Children and Youth Cabinet members as directed by Chair Wilkins. Members will be emailed a spreadsheet on which to record Cabinet member responses. Theda Roberts will compile responses into a single document.

The **next meeting** is scheduled for April 3, 2012. Discussion will continue on barriers to the Broward Children Services Council proposal. The federal Office of Management and Budget will participate.