

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET - MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, August 31, 2011**  
**University of Central Florida Teaching Academy**  
**Room TA 130, 4000 Central Florida Blvd., Building 93**  
**Orlando, Florida, 32816**

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. Please contact Christina Pacelle at [Christina.Pacelle@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:Christina.Pacelle@eog.myflorida.com) to obtain meeting materials.

**Children and Youth Cabinet Members in attendance:**

- Alan Abramowitz, Executive Director, Guardian ad Litem
- Cyndee Odom, Director, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection
- David Lawrence, President, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation
- Steven J. Uhlfelder, Uhlfelder and Associates, PA
- Mike Hansen, Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Wansley Walters, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice
- David Wilkins, Secretary, Department of Children and Families
- Judy Schaechter, M.D., Director, Injury Free Coalition for Kids, Miami
- Elizabeth Dudek, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
- Frank Farmer, State Surgeon General, Department of Health
- Gayle Harrell, Representative (Speaker of the House Designee)
- Cynthia Lorenzo, Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation
- Nan Rich, Senator (Senate President Designee)
- Gerard Robinson, Commissioner, Department of Education
- Zemoria Johnson, Youth Commissioner, Youth Commission

**Children and Youth Cabinet Members attending by telephone:**

- Abby Vail, Attorney, Office of the Chief Financial Officer (Chief Financial Officer's Designee)
- Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Florida Supreme Court (Chief Justice Designee)

**Children and Youth Cabinet Members unable to attend:**

- Pam Bondi, Attorney General
- Toni Crawford, Chairperson, Early Learning Coalition of Duval
- Gay Lancaster, Executive Director, Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board

## Proceedings

The Cabinet Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Wilkins, Secretary, Department of Children and Families, who then welcomed everyone to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet meeting.

Chairman Wilkins introduced First Lady Ann Scott. The First Lady welcomed the Cabinet members and thanked them for the important work they are doing. The Chairman thanked the First Lady for taking the time to welcome the Cabinet members at their meeting. The First Lady thanked each Cabinet member individually before she left for her next meeting.

Secretary Wilkins thanked the University of Central Florida Teaching Academy, the University of Central Florida Marriage and Family Institute, the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, and the Department of Children and Families for all their hard work in making sure all the details of the meeting were taken care of.

Chairman Wilkins introduced and welcomed new Cabinet members in attendance at the meeting: Gerard Robinson, Commissioner, Department of Education; Mike Hansen, Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities; Zemoria Johnson, Youth Commissioner, Youth Commission.

Chairman Wilkins announced the expansion of the Cabinet to include advisory representation from: the business community, the faith-based community, higher education, law enforcement, and the military. This new membership is intended to ensure that there is representation on the Cabinet from the full continuum of a child's life.

Chairman Wilkins challenged the Cabinet members to think collaboratively and across agency lines to improve outcomes for Florida's children families and communities. After Chairman Wilkins gave an overview of the agenda, roll call was taken by Christina Pacelle.

First on the agenda was an update of the work that has been underway since the last Cabinet meeting:

- Dr. Brittany Birken, Chief Executive Officer, Florida Children's Services Council was appointed as the Chair of the State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care. Under Dr. Birken work has begun to create action plans for two of the Headline Indicators: *Every Florida Child is Healthy* – Children with Health Insurance, and *Every Florida Child is Ready to Learn and Succeed* – Kindergarten Readiness. The State Advisory Council will report back to the Cabinet on progress at future meetings.
- Because of the suggestions that the Cabinet members made since the previous Cabinet meeting, Chairman Wilkins announced the creation of four new workgroups: The Human Trafficking Workgroup, to be Chaired by Secretary Wansley Walters, Department of Juvenile Justice, The Interagency Background Screening Workgroup, to be Chaired by Secretary Chuck Corely, Department of Elder Affairs, the Community Services Delivery Models Workgroup – to improve service

integration, to be Chaired by Executive Director Alan Abramowitz, Guardian ad Litem, and the Death Review Teams Workgroup, to be Chaired by Secretary Elizabeth Dudek, Agency for Health Care Administration.

- As a follow up to the Children and Youth Cabinet Information Sharing System presentation at the last meeting, the Chairman announced there will be an evaluation conducted to establish where the project is, what the future needs of the Cabinet agencies are, and to perform a feasibility study.

Next on the agenda were agency presentations given by four agency heads. These presentations were given to allow the agency leaders to discuss the initiatives of their departments and to emphasize where their children and youth clients interface with other agencies and where opportunities for better collaboration to reduce barriers for integrated services can be found.

- Elizabeth Dudek, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
  - Secretary Dudek stated, in her overview, that the Agency for Health Care Administration is the chief health policy and planning entity for the state. They are responsible for Health Quality Assurance and administration of Medicaid Program and Florida Healthy Kids Corporation.
  - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
    - Secretary Dudek stated the need for portability of services across agencies. Children within the justice system that are in need of mental health help, however they are no longer eligible for services they need. She also mentioned that children who were receiving services under the Department of Children and Families and are now in the justice system have lost access to health care services. Secretary Dudek suggested that money and services need to follow the child.
    - Increasing outreach through agencies to families to sign up for KidCare. In addition increasing outreach by local communities to renew.
- Gerard Robinson, Commissioner, Department of Education
  - In his overview the Commissioner wanted to make sure that student's skill sets are in line with the standards that are in place. For example, looking into a link between the Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores.
  - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
    - Specifically mentioned that there needs to be collaboration between Department of Education and Department of Juvenile Justice to make sure that those incarcerated are provided education and the skills they will need when they are released.
    - Stated that there will be discussion between Department of Education and Agency for Workforce Administration about what it means for children to be "college ready" and how to get them there.

- Collaboration between the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Education filtered down to the local school districts and communities about training for school personnel to identify and report child abuse as well as support children who have been traumatized by abuse or neglect.
- Cynthia Lorenzo, Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation
  - In her agency overview Director Lorenzo informed the Cabinet that the Agency for Workforce Innovation will be transitioning into the Office of Early Learning. The new Office of Early Learning will be administratively supported by the Department of Education. The Office will be focusing on School Readiness Programs, Child Care Resource and Referral, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, and Youth Workforce Programs and Partnerships. Need to increase the training and level of education for Voluntary Prekindergarten Education teachers. The need for pre-assessment for children
  - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
    - Launch of two pilot programs, one to provide employment opportunities for youth with criminal backgrounds, and the other to provide children aging out of foster care with workforce skills and education.
- David Wilkins, Secretary, Department of Children and Families
  - In his agency overview Secretary Wilkins discussed Department of Children and Families' range of services: Child Protective Investigations, Community-Based Care, Case Management, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, Children's Legal Services, Florida Abuse Hotline, Independent Living, Quality Parenting Initiative, and Child Abuse Prevention. He also stated that some of the regulations on foster children should be reevaluated. He also mentioned that there needs to be adequate support provided for foster parents.
  - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
    - Need to raise rate of success for children in foster care. Partner with Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Health; as this collaboration can make these children's lives as successful as possible, which goes hand in hand in helping them obtain normalcy.
    - Need to keep children out of system by collaborating with Department of Juvenile Justice about prevention and diversion.
    - The Department of Children and Families needs to have information sharing with Department of Health and Department of Education as far as keeping track of the health records and child's progress in school.

**Public Comments were heard from:**

No public comments were heard at this meeting.

Chairman Wilkins thanked the Cabinet members for their time and service and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011 in Orlando. To stay within Florida Statutes, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet will be meeting four more times before the end of the calendar year. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

**Documents filed with these minutes:**

- Agenda
- Agency for Healthcare Administration Power Point Presentation
- Department of Education Power Point Presentation
- Department of Education Child Abuse Prevention Sourcebook for Florida School Personnel
- Agency for Workforce Innovation Power Point Presentation
- Florida State Advisory Council Briefing and Membership
- Orlando Sentinel Article: Gov. Rick Scott: Let's Compete for \$100 Million Race to the Top Grant for Young Kids
- Department of Children and Families Power Point Presentation
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet 2011 Meeting Schedule