

FLORIDA CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET - MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 1, 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 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)
- Hanna Karimipour, Youth Commissioner, Youth Commission
- Toni Crawford, Chairperson, Early Learning Coalition of Duval

Children and Youth Cabinet Members attending by telephone:

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

Children and Youth Cabinet Members unable to attend:

- Pam Bondi, Attorney General
- Gay Lancaster, Executive Director, Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board
- Gerard Robinson, Commissioner, Department of Education
- Cynthia Lorenzo, Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation
- Nan Rich, Senator (Senate President Designee)

Proceedings

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

Dr. Andrew Daire, Associate Professor, Counselor Education and School of Psychology; Co-founder and Executive Director, University of Central Florida Marriage and Family Research Institute, welcomed the Cabinet members on behalf of the University of Central Florida.

Chairman Wilkins challenged the Cabinet 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.

Chairman Wilkins announced that there would be representation on the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet from the Youth Commission. Each meeting will have a youth from the Commission sit at the table to give a voice to the children and teenagers in Florida. Youth Commissioners Zemoria Johnson and Hanna Karimapour provided an overview about the Youth Commission's members and goals.

The next items on the agenda were four agency presentations by agency leaders. These presentations are to ensure that all are aware of the functions of the agencies, as well as where their children and youth clients potentially interface with multiple agencies.

Presentations were heard from:

- Mike Hansen, Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
 - In his agency overview Director Hansen spoke about the division of health and human services into multiple agencies, and how the Cabinet and its members need to work together to recreate the collaboration that used to be inherent. The Director stated that the ideas for funding programs are constantly changing and evolving. He would like to be able to take the resources that are currently available and identify better ways to transform them into solutions. He would like to try to reduce pulling individuals out of the community and putting them into an institution by using Medicaid waiver services to accomplish this as well as how to pay for getting clients back out into the community. How to balance the particular roles of national, state, and individuals in providing needed assistance.
 - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
 - Significant overlap between the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Children and Families and the clients they serve. Director Hansen would like to try to establish a way for these agencies to communicate and share information about one child that is served by each of these agencies.
- Frank Farmer, Surgeon General, Department of Health

- In his overview Surgeon General Farmer stressed the importance of regulating health practitioners as authorized by legislature. The pill mill issue in Florida that was passed by the legislature this past session was of great importance. Improper prescription writing is now an epidemic, and there must be able to more quickly suspend any physicians arrested for doing this.
 - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
 - The Department of Health interfaces with virtually every department.
 - Coordinated care between agencies provides for better health of children.
- Wansley Walters, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Secretary Walters discussed in her overview that Department of Juvenile Justice is a very misunderstood department, as are the children in the justice system. She stated that the majority of the children are not significantly criminally inclined. Last year the state legislature implemented civil citation process. This identifies children that have committed a misdemeanor and identifies if there are family issues or mental health issues and provides the opportunity for community service and restitution without child ever entering the system. The Secretary mentioned that detention reform is needed to find other ways to change the behavior of these children without putting them in detention which can be so detrimental to a child's life.
 - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
 - Provide local and community connections for these children so that they can have support to get through system and support once they exit the system.
 - The Agency for Workforce Innovation has aided in guiding children in the system towards productive lives.
- Alan Abramowitz, Executive Director, Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
 - In his agency presentation Executive Director Abramowitz explained that most of work of Guardian ad Litem is done by volunteers. Guardian ad Litem would like to make sure there are enough funds to provide children with all of the services they need. They are trying to create partnerships so that Guardian ad Litem can have volunteers with specialized skills and backgrounds that can bring added insight to a child's case. Also, Guardian ad Litem is aligning with community non profits to expand volunteer base.
 - Opportunities for Change and Collaboration:
 - Barriers can be overcome by sharing training opportunities with the various agencies and to keep working on sharing of data.
 - Flexible funding is very important.

Following the agency presentations, Cyndee Odom, Director, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection presented on Federal Policy Recommendations for Administrative Flexibility. This is the first opportunity the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet has had to work on the national level to influence federal policies to reduce barriers for interagency efforts to reconnect disconnected youth. There will be progress updates presented in future meetings.

Public Comments were heard from:

- Mary Emerson, Director, UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, about Centers for autism and related disabilities in the state of Florida
- David Olio for the Sanctity of Human Life Network, about pro-life related concerns
- Joseph M. Ascrizzi about the tax funding of Children's Services Councils.

Chairman Wilkins thanked the individuals who gave public comments. He then thanked the Cabinet members for their time and service and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2011 in Jacksonville. To stay within Florida Statutes, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet will be meeting three 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
- Youth Commission Power Point Presentation
- Agency for Persons with Disabilities Power Point Presentations
- Department of Health Power Point Presentation
- Department of Juvenile Justice Power Point Presentation
- Guardian ad Litem Power Point Presentation
- Federal Policy Recommendations for Administrative Flexibility Power Point Presentation
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet 2011 Meeting Schedule