

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET - MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 25, 2011
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Advanced Technology Center, Room T-140
401 W. State Street, Jacksonville, Florida, 32202

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
- Mike Hansen, Director, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Gayle Harrell, Representative (Speaker of the House Designee)
- Mel Jurado, Director, Office of Early Learning
- Hanna Karimapour, Youth Commissioner, Youth Commission
- David Lawrence, President, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation
- Cyndee Odom, Director, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection
- Gerard Robinson, Commissioner, Department of Education
- Berthy de la Rosa-Aponte, (Attorney General Designee)
- Judy Schaechter, M.D., Director, Injury Free Coalition for Kids, Miami
- Steven J. Uhlfelder, Uhlfelder and Associates, PA
- Wansley Walters, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice
- David Wilkins, Secretary, Department of Children and Families

Children and Youth Cabinet Members attending by telephone:

- Elizabeth Dudek, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
- Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Florida Supreme Court (Chief Justice Designee)
- Nan Rich, Senator (Senate President Designee)
- Abby Vail, Attorney, Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Children and Youth Cabinet Members unable to attend:

- Toni Crawford, Chairperson, Early Learning Coalition of Duval
- Frank Farmer, State Surgeon General, Department of Health
- Gay Lancaster, Executive Director, Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board

Proceedings

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

Secretary Wilkins thanked the Florida State College at Jacksonville, the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, and the Florida Channel for all their hard work in making sure all the details of our meeting were taken care of.

Dr. Christal Albrecht, Downtown Campus President, Florida State College at Jacksonville, welcomed the Cabinet members.

Chairman Wilkins introduced and welcomed new Cabinet members in attendance at the meeting: Berthy de la Rosa-Aponte, Designee of Attorney General Pam Bondi; and Mel Jurado, Director of the Office of Early Learning.

The Chairman also recognized two members of the Gubernatorial Fellows, Class VII, that were in attendance: Kristen Klien, a Fellow at the Department of Children and Families; and Nikki Blanton, a Fellow with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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.

The Chairman provided the Cabinet members updates about First Lady Ann Scott's advocacy efforts for children:

- First Lady Ann Scott released a READ poster in partnership with Department of Education, Department of Children and Families, and the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection promoting reading at libraries and adoption.
- The First Lady will send out an adoption message next month for National Adoption Month to encourage Floridians to explore adoption.
- In addition, the First Lady will be sending a congratulatory letter to each adoptive family that finalizes their adoption during November.

Additional updates:

- Chairman Wilkins asked State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care Chair Dr. Brittany Birken, Chief Executive Officer, Florida Children's Services Council to also Chair the Children's Budget Committee for the Cabinet.
- As a follow up to the last Cabinet meeting presentation on Administrative Flexibility, the Children and Youth Cabinet sent in numerous suggestions on how Florida would utilize this flexibility, as well as our top two priorities per agency. Florida, Colorado, Maine, Utah and Nevada are currently drafting pilot site concept papers which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget by the end of October. Because the work of the

Administrative Flexibility so closely relates to the work of the Community Services Delivery Models workgroup, the administrative flexibility work will be moved under Director Abramowitz' purview.

- The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council will have a re-launch meeting next month on November 15th. The goals of the Council are to enlist, enable, empower, and expand the work of volunteer faith-based and community-based organizations. This is a great opportunity for collaboration between the Cabinet and faith- and community-based groups.
- At each Cabinet meeting the Chairman will highlight one or two community organizations in the meeting city that serve children and youth.
 - The Youth Challenge Center's Touchstone Village is an innovative program designed to help disconnected youth and young adults who need help transitioning to independent and responsible adulthood.
 - The Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center, supported by Edward Waters College, using an extensive volunteer network, the center provides lifelong learning opportunities for adults, youth and their families to improve their skills, pursue knowledge, seek advancement, and enhance their self-worth.
- Having Cabinet meetings throughout the state provides an opportunity to visit local organizations that serve Florida's children and youth. The Department of Children and Families is planning a site visit for the Cabinet members to visit before our November meeting. The Chairman will be inviting the state agencies to coordinate a site visit before or after future meetings. This will give us an opportunity to learn more about what is happening at the local level, as well as highlight some of our wonderful partners.
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet now has a web page on the Governor's website. Information about the Cabinet, the members, initiatives, work products, and meeting notices can be found on the website by going to www.flgov.com/child_advocacy.

The next item on the agenda was a brief presentation on the Race to the Top Grant. At the August Cabinet meeting Cynthia Lorenzo mentioned Florida's opportunity to win another Race to the Top grant. Commissioner Gerard Robinson, Department of Education and Director Mel Jurado, Office of Early Learning, provided an update on Florida's progress.

- Senator Rich felt that there was a need to be as open as possible about what is or is not in the grant. Also, that if the grant is received there should be focus on quality of education, teachers, and professional development of teachers.

Next was a Youth Commission update by Youth Commissioner Hannah Karimipour. The presentation focused on the Youth Commission page on the Governors site and the Commissions plans for reaching out to and collaborating with other youth groups in Florida. For both of these projects the Youth Commission has been assisted by the Gubernatorial Fellows Class VII, who has taken the Youth Commission on as one of their legacy projects.

- Dr. Schaechter suggested that they reach out to civics teachers around Florida and engage in that manner. Representative Harrell mentioned that she had heard of a middle school civics class holding a legislative fair, and that the Youth Commission could look into organizing something like that and she offered to assist. Ms. De la Rosa-Aponte also wanted to remind the Youth Commission to include children with disabilities in their outreach. Commissioner Robinson had the suggestion that the Youth Commissioners and Gubernatorial Fellows should compile a journal of their time of service to pass along to future Youth Commissioners and Fellows.

Director Cyndee Odom, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection and Director Christie Ferris, Office of Child Welfare, Department of Children and Families updated the Cabinet on the work of the Headline Indicator: *Every Florida Child has a Stable and Nurturing Family* – Child Maltreatment Prevention. Discussion of the Local and State permanency and prevention plans. Director Odom mentioned some of the best practices of the state plan to highlight the good work that is being implemented with the state plan.

- Senator Rich said that as a Cabinet they should formally reach out to the legislators and express that there needs to be an emphasis on abuse prevention and home visiting programs.

As follow up to the August Cabinet announcement of the creation of four workgroups, the workgroup leads provided updates on the progress of their workgroups.

- Director of Legislative Affairs, Joshua Spagnola, Department of Elder Affairs, presented as Coordinator of the Interagency Background Screening Workgroup.
 - Key issue regarding background screenings is portability, come up with a common list of offenses to share and combine. Need to minimize burden on volunteer network. The Workgroup intends to follow any legislative proposal through to try to get the recommended changes passed in session. A shared data base would help with the concern that when you have an individual that provides services under different agencies they have to be screened multiple times.
 - Representative Harrell wanted to be clear about how these plans will be implemented because there will be cost concerns of a large central database and privacy concerns from the FBI. The legislature is in favor of a unified screening, but the implementation is what they will be asking about.
- Secretary Wansley Walters, Department of Juvenile Justice, presented as Chair of the Human Trafficking Workgroup.
 - The workgroup held a meeting in September to identify partners they should include as workgroup members. Human trafficking is a very complex issue, because of that the Workgroup, for now, will focus on child sex trafficking. Once they have established the ground work and details they will branch out to working on the other human trafficking fields. Workgroup understands that there are many individuals and organizations around Florida that are working

- on this issue, and the workgroup wants to make sure that all ongoing efforts are included. Also to really promote a statewide public awareness program.
- Dr. Schaechter wanted to make sure that doctors would be a part of the workgroup because they are often the first to come into contact with the victims. Also to not forget that young boys are often sexual trafficking victims, and to be sure to recognize those who are not lawful residents as victims
 - Representative Harrell wanted the Workgroup to reach out to legislators that have been involved with this type of legislation and to not try to rush to a solution. This is a complex issue but with some time they can achieve a very good piece of legislation.
 - Executive Director Alan Abramowitz, Guardian ad Litem, presented as Chair of the Community Services Delivery Models Workgroup.
 - Community Service Delivery Models is a very broad topic. The Workgroup will begin by looking at existing reports and documents. They will start out very narrow and focused and then branch out. Focus on decreasing any duplication, and increasing efficiency and effectiveness. Many groups lose out of funding because they cannot achieve this. The presentation included workgroup membership and how it would be divided up. The workgroup has decided to have a main committee of representatives from the business community who will be advised by a subcommittee of community group experienced individuals.
 - Ms. De la Rosa-Aponte wanted to be sure that there was representation for the disability services on the workgroup.
 - Secretary Elizabeth Dudek, Agency for Health Care Administration, Chair of the Child Death Review Teams in Florida Workgroup was unable to present an update on the progress of the workgroup due to audio technical issues.

Last on the agenda were the Cabinet agencies' legislative priorities. There was not sufficient time for the agencies to go over each of their priorities but all Cabinet members were provided with a handout for them to review. As the next legislative session approaches, it is important to know what each of the agency's priorities are before session begins. The Cabinet is not a lobbying body, but it would be beneficial to know what each of the agencies priorities are. If we can identify early where agencies' priorities overlap or intersect, we can begin to streamline our efforts to avoid duplication.

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 November 30, 2011 in Clearwater. To stay within Florida Statutes, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet will be meeting two 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
- Administrative Flexibility Priority Recommendations Handout
- Administrative Flexibility Recommendations Handout
- Youth Commission Power Point Presentation
- Headline Indicator Power Point Presentation
- Every Florida Child Lives in a Stable and Nurturing Family Children who are Maltreated Turning the Curve Handout
- Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June 2015 Executive Summary Handout
- Interagency Background Screening Workgroup Power Point Presentation
- Interagency Background Screening Workgroup Report to the Governor Handout
- Human Trafficking Workgroup Power Point Presentation
- Community Services Delivery Models Workgroup Presentation
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Agencies' Legislative Priorities Handout
- Florida Children and Youth Cabinet 2011 Meeting Schedule