



Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

Name of Coordinating Body: Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

Administrative Home: Florida Department of Children and Families

Staffing: The Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, along with the Department of Children and Families, are tasked with providing administrative support and service to the Cabinet.

Funding: Initiatives identified by the cabinet seek funding through the legislature. Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection receives an allocation of \$150,000 from state general revenue funds to support staffing.

Membership: The members of the Children and Youth Cabinet consist of a chairman, the secretaries of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Agency for Health Care Administration, as well as the directors of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the Office of Early Learning. Other members include the State Surgeon General, the Commissioner of Education, the director of the Guardian ad Litem Office, the director of the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, and a superintendent of schools. The Governor or his/her designee serves as the chair of the Cabinet. Additionally, the Governor appoints five members from around the state who are representatives of children and youth advocacy organizations, but who are not service providers. Rounding out the Cabinet are ex-officio members named in statute, or their designees representing the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the Chief Financial Officer, the Attorney General, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Structure

The Cabinet is made up of agency administrators that function as a steering committee that meets quarterly. In addition, the Cabinet is divided into five

standing committees that directly support the mission and goals set forth by the Cabinet: Policy Impact, Best Practices and Delivery of Services, Communications, Budget and Resources and Technology.

History

Year & Method of Establishment: On July 11, 2007, the Governor signed Florida Statute 402.56 that created the Children and Youth Cabinet. The Cabinet is charged with promoting and implementing collaboration, creativity, increased efficiency, information sharing and improved service delivery between and within state agencies and organizations.

Mission: The mission of the Cabinet is to ensure that the public policy of Florida relating to children and youth promotes interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order for services designed for children and youth to be planned, managed and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and quality of life of all children and youth in Florida.

Current Work:

Results/Outcomes Framework:

Four areas were established as a priority focus for the 13 key child well-being indicators that the Cabinet identified as most important. The Cabinet has worked to target its efforts and resources in these areas in order to improve Florida outcomes related to these indicators.

The four areas of focus are:

1. Every Florida child is healthy.
2. Every Florida child is ready to learn and succeed.
3. Every Florida child has a stable and nurturing family.
4. Every Florida child lives in a safe and supportive community.

Primary Goals and Priorities of the Cabinet

The Cabinet has aligned its five workgroups to support the achievement of the following primary goals:

1. The Cabinet will provide a venue for presenting a united voice on how to address issues affecting the health and well-being of Florida's children and youth.
2. The Cabinet will work to galvanize the State of Florida, all agencies and service providers, to shift the context of the provision of services from reactive to preventive.
3. The Cabinet should explore new and different funding mechanisms that could provide greater coordination among agencies and better delivery of appropriate services to the children and youth being served. This should be done without dipping into current sources of funding and thereby depleting one at the expense of another.

Following a presentation on The First 1000 Days Florida Campaign (a research-driven, collaborative public awareness and advocacy campaign) the Cabinet agreed to set a priority focus on early childhood while leveraging the committee structure to develop recommended actions on specific policies impacting early childhood ages zero to three. The Cabinet sent a letter to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House emphasizing the importance of early childhood development for the first 1,000 days in a child's life and to utilize the Policy Impact Committee to develop further recommended actions for full Cabinet consideration.

Accomplishments

In addition to adopting a strategic plan to better coordinate children and family services in Florida, the Cabinet has completed or begun work on all nine of its statutorily required duties and responsibilities.

The Children and Youth Cabinet was selected to participate in a federal initiative to promote multi-system collaboration. The program is being run by the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States out of Georgetown University. It has tremendous potential to help the Cabinet achieve its mission to provide

services in an integrated and holistic manner. Youth awaiting competency to proceed evaluations is the focus of the Florida Team. The team has been process mapping and gathering extensive data to develop recommendations that will better serve these youth. The group is developing protocols and procedures to adequately address high utilizing groups. The work plan should be completed in April 2016.

Contact Information

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Words of Wisdom:

"All children in Florida should have the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to meet their full potential."

Links

- [Florida Statute 402.56](#)
- [Florida Children and Youth Cabinet 2007 Strategic Plan](#)
- [Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Workgroup Alignment to Strategic Plan](#)
- [Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Workgroup Alignment to Headline Indicators](#)
- [Youth Commission](#)