

Maryland Children's Cabinet

Logistics

Name: Maryland Children's Cabinet

Administrative Home: Governor's Office for Children (GOC)

Staffing: The Governor's Office for Children provides the staff support to the Children's Cabinet.

Funding: It is one of the few Children's Cabinets that has dedicated funding through Maryland State General Funds. The Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund is administered and managed by the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children, consistent with the policies and procedures established by the Children's Cabinet.

Membership: The Children's Cabinet coordinates the child and family focused service delivery system by emphasizing prevention, early intervention, and community-based services for all children & families. It is chaired by the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children and includes the Secretaries from the Departments of:

- Budget and Management
- Disabilities
- Health and Mental Hygiene
- Human Resources
- Juvenile Services
- Public Safety & Correctional Services (new)
- Labor, Licensing and Regulation (new)
- Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (new)
- And the Superintendent of Schools for the Maryland State Department of Education

Structure Established by Executive Order, the Member Secretaries are required by the Governor to participate in the Children's Cabinet. The Maryland State Department of Education is the fiscal agent for the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund. The role of the Governor's Office for Children is to serve as a clearinghouse for research on policy, best practices, and evidence-based programs, to provide the Governor and the Children's Cabinet with the best information on the range of potential options for policies, services, and service delivery to address the well-being of Maryland's children and families. Agencies represented on the Cabinet are also represented on the Local Management Boards (LMBs). LMBs plan, coordinate, & monitor the delivery of children and family services in local

jurisdictions. LMBs receive core funding from the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund.

History

Year & Method of Establishment: The Governor's Office for Children was started in 1978 (Chapter 426, Acts of 1978), and reorganized as the Office for Children, Youth, and Families in 1990 when the Children's Cabinet was established (Chapter 419, Acts of 1990). The law expired in June 2005 and the Governor's Office for Children and Children's Cabinet were reestablished by Executive Order.

Duties/Responsibilities/Goals: The purpose of the Children's Cabinet is to ensure high visibility & sustained focus on critical issues related to children, youth & their families through a coordinated approach to policy & resources. The Children's Cabinet members are tasked with holding the big picture vision and focusing on questions that are interagency in nature, while the Deputy Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff are tasked with implementation.

Priority Projects/Initiatives In 2015, Governor Hogan charged the Children's Cabinet with four strategic goals: reduce the impact of parental incarceration on children, families & communities; reduce childhood hunger; improve outcomes for disconnected youth; & reduce youth homelessness. The purpose is to contribute to Governor's overall goal of economic success by building human capital among Maryland's most vulnerable children, youth, families & communities. The Children's Cabinet tasked an Implementation Team (Deputy Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff of the member agencies) with developing an action plan to coordinate State policies; maximize state resources; look at measurable outcomes; increase local capacity to plan and implement; & target funding for impact.

Accomplishments In the strategic planning process, the Implementation Team looked at current efforts that are already contributing to the strategic goals (created a comprehensive Program Catalog), current research & current gaps. They identified immediate next steps which will serve as the basis for a three year plan. Examples of immediate next steps included data and information sharing, visitation protocols and policies for foster youth and their incarcerated parent (where appropriate) and planned co-location of services. The Cabinet is also implementing the Results Scorecard for all LMBs, to track changes in

outcomes. LMBs have engineered changes in their local communities that have improved the quality of life for children and families. To date, LMBs have:

- Led the way in returning and diverting children from out-of-state residential placements;
- Administered funding for interagency services provided to children at-risk of out-of-home placements;
- Increased collaboration between local stakeholders and agencies serving children and families.

Contact Information

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Words of Wisdom: "The Children's Cabinet requires support from the top, you have to have a governor who believes in maximizing resources and achieving results through coordination."

"The beauty of Maryland's approach is that we have both the state and local component in place. Having Local Management Boards (local coordinating bodies) informs the work of the Children's Cabinet in unanticipated ways and helps connect the big picture state view to local realities. It creates a very different conversation."

Links

Maryland Children's Cabinet:

<http://goc.maryland.gov/cc/>

Local Management Boards:

<http://goc.maryland.gov/lmb-directory/>

Summary of Strategic Plan:

<http://goc.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2013/11/CC Strategic Plan Summary.pdf>

Full Strategic Plan: <http://goc.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2013/11/CC Strategic Plan FINAL.pdf>