**Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Policy Impact Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, December 14th, 2017**

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Florida Supreme Court Annex | City Centre, Conference Room A

227 N. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32301

**Meeting Summary**

Note: The following is a summary of the highlights of the proceedings and is not intended to be construed as a transcript. To obtain meeting materials, please visit [www.flgov.com/childrens- cabinet.](http://www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet)

**Attendance Summary**

**Memebers and Representatives in Attendance:**

**Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Policy Impact Committee members on conference call:**

* Diana Ragbeer, Early Learning Coalition
* Alan Abramowitz, GAL
* Sandy Karlan, Chair of the Policy Impact Committee
* Zack Gibson
* Nathan Dunn, DOH
* Dr. Norin Dollard, Florida KIDS Count
* Sandy Neidert, OSCA
* Nathan Dunn, DOH
* Erin Smeltzer, OEL
* Dr. Tara Huls, OEL
* John Bryant, DCF
* Jeri Cully, DCF
* Traci Leavine, DCF
* Rebecca Bouquio, AHCA
* Steve Coleman, APD
* Jeannie Becker-Powell, DJJ
* Jacob Oliva, DOE

**Staff in Attendance:**

|  |
| --- |
| Meeting Start Time: 1:30 p.m. |
| Meeting End Time: 4:00 p.m. |

* Lindsey Zander
* Brian Menard

**Proceedings**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Sandy Karlan called the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet) Policy Impact Committee meeting to order and welcomed everyone on the call.

The roll was called by Lindsey Zander and a quorum was confirmed.

**Summary of Key Issues from October 5th Meeting**

Chair Karlan reminded the Policy Impact Committee members of the key issues that were brought up during the last meeting. She and Zack Gibson recommended that the committee first focus on policy and legislative deliverables to recommend to the Cabinet by January, then revisit these issues following the end of session in order to commit more time to potential solutions. These key issues are listed below.

**Key Issues:**

* Healthy workforce
* Single-client identifier
* Early identifier/screening and response
* Coordination among agencies

**Review of Priority Bills Supported by Cabinet Agencies and Other Related Bills**

Members of the committee revisited the Cabinet’s three initiatives, then reviewed their respective agency’s related legislative initiatives.

**Department of Health (DOH)**: DOH informed the committee that their legislative budget requests include spending authority for the Early Steps program and $1.2 million to upgrade the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. These requests best align with the Cabinet initiatives relating to mental health & substance abuse and continued focus on zero to three/school readiness.

**Office of Early Learning (OEL)**: OEL informed the committee of their appropriations requests for funding to increase slots in their Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program and continue performance improvement funding. These requests best align with the Cabinet initiatives relating to children living in high poverty areas and continued focus on zero to three/school readiness.

**Guardian ad Litem (GAL)**: GAL informed the committee of their appropriations request towards establishing child advocate manager and program director positions within the Early Childhood Courts in Florida’s judicial circuits. They have also filed a bill which would implement the Early Childhood Court. Their requests best align with the Cabinet initiatives relating to children living in high poverty areas and continued focus on zero to three/school readiness.

**Department of Children and Families (DCF)**: DCF informed the committee of their legislative focus on the IV-E Waiver Path Forward and child protection workforce stability to promote child welfare within the state. DCF also described their appropriations and budget authority requests to address the opioid crisis, substance abuse system of care enhancements, and behavioral health services for dually served youth and families. Finally, DCF informed the committee of forthcoming legislation to establish guardianship assistance programs, IV-E extended foster care and adoption subsidies, and continued work to maximize federal funding. Their proposed legislation and requests align with all three Cabinet initiatives.

**Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**: DJJ informed the committee of their appropriations requests to reauthorize their direct support organization. They also informed the committee of legislative priorities relating to prolific juvenile offender violations of non-secure detention and the requiring consideration of the Predisposition Report in determining a youth’s suitability for adjudications of commitment. Their proposed requests and legislation align with the Cabinet initiatives relating to children living in high poverty areas and mental health & substance abuse.

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD):** APD informed the committee of their appropriations request for $53.1 million to address growth of the waiver resulting from crisis foster enrollment from waiting list. This is especially true for older teenagers who then come into care - foster care children have to be added to the waiver, not the wait list.

**Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA):** AHCA does not have legislative proposals that specifically align with the Cabinet’s three priorities. However, they are looking for an 1115 Waiver that addresses authority to change service mix and expand eligibility groups to better support Opioid treatment. Legislative authority is needed to expand the populations to include the parents of a child in child welfare not currently eligible, pregnant women and substance exposed newborns and design a better package of services for these populations.

Chair Karlan then asked committee members to briefly review a list of filed bills that align with the Cabinet’s three initiatives to be considered for future support. If recommended by the Cabinet, these bills would be included in a letter of support sent to the Legislature.

**Advocate Input and Future Involvement**

Chair Karlan asked the committee to review documents and materials that were submitted by child-advocacy groups that may be invited to present to the Cabinet in January. These advocacy groups include: Help Me Grow Florida, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program, the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, the First 1000 Days Coalition, Florida’s Children’s First, and the United Way of Florida.

Committee members then discussed additional advocacy groups, including, but not limited to, the Florida Chamber Foundation, Florida Healthy Kids, and the Urban League. Members were tasked with selecting which advocacy groups should be invited to present to the Cabinet in January.

**Wrap-up and Looking Forward**

Chair Karlan and Zack Gibson reminded members that the goal of the Policy Impact Committee is to make a concerted effort to address the Cabinet’s priorities. They expressed thanks to each member for their participation, effort, and commitment thus far, along with excitement for the upcoming meeting in January.

**Action Item 1:** Erin (OEL) will look into how much the VPK waitlist would decrease by with a $50 increase in the BSA for the program.

**Action Item 2:** Jeannie (DJJ) will look into if the DJJ Predisposition Report will be accompanied by a bill.

**Action Item 3:** John Bryant (DCF) will share the Baker Act report with the Policy Impact Committee. If asked to provide a presentation to committees during session, he will also share that presentation with the Cabinet.

**Action Item 4:** Lindsey will email the list of advocacy groups to members of the Policy Impact Committee. Committee members will provide feedback on who should be invited to the next Cabinet meeting to speak and if any groups are missing.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Closing and Adjournment**

The next Cabinet meeting datewill be **Monday, January 22nd, 2018 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.