

**The Children's Cabinet**  
Thursday, December 3, 2015  
DOA Conference Room A  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Meeting Minutes  
**Approved 1/4/2016**

**Members in Attendance:** The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Elizabeth Roberts, Chair; Ken Wagner, Vice Chair; Jamia McDonald, Michael DiBiase; Regina Costa, Esq; Nicole Alexander Scott, MD; Maria Montanaro, Jim Purcell and Scott Jensen. **Guest:** Barbara Fields. **Absent:** Melba DePena.

❖ **Call to Order and Announcements:**

**Secretary Roberts** called the meeting to order and informed the Cabinet that Director DePena has an excused absence due to a conflict with her schedule. Secretary Roberts asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Director Jenson made a motion to approve and Commissioner Purcell made a second motion. Secretary asked the Cabinet if there were any comments or amendments to be made to the minutes. There were none. Secretary asked all those in favor of adopting the minutes, all were in favor, 0 opposed. Motion passed and minutes were adopted.

Secretary Roberts stated the first portion of the meeting would focus on the strategic plan and then move into discussions regarding data dashboards and outcomes-driven budgeting. “We will looking at how we budget for children’s services, programming and how we coordinate those within government,” said Secretary Roberts. Secretary Roberts then asked Dacia Read to present the contents of the proposed strategic plan.

❖ **Strategic Plan:**

**Dacia Read** thanked each of the Cabinet members, the staff from their agencies as well as members of the public who supported the creation of the Children’s Cabinet strategic plan. She indicated that through their collective leadership and all of the meetings that have taken place since the last Children’s Cabinet meeting, a strong plan has been produced that positions the Cabinet to improve governance, services and child-outcomes. Dacia reported that the plan can be found on the Children’s Cabinet website [www.kids.ri.gov](http://www.kids.ri.gov). Dacia described that the plan is composed of seven parts:

- Mission, Vision, Goals, Guiding Principles
- Governance Strategies
- Governance Metrics and Targets
- Desired Outcomes for Children and Youth
- Monitoring Progress: Objectives, Indicators & Dashboards
- Partners
- Timeline and anticipated 2016 Initiatives

❖ **Mission, Vision and Goals**

**Dacia** stated that the Cabinet’s strategic plan includes three goals that are all interrelated and focused on a primary goal which is improved outcome for children and youth. Dacia reminded those in attendance that when Governor Raimondo reconvened the Children’s Cabinet, Rhode Island was ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation for child wellbeing, and that assessment was based on a set of child wellbeing indicators that the Cabinet is now positioning itself to monitor and take action to realize improvements for child wellbeing overall.

## ❖ Guiding Principles

**Dacia** stated that the guiding principles included in the strategic plan are essentially the same guiding principles as discussed in the last meeting, however the Cabinet made some changes to demonstrate that the Cabinet is driven by principles related to smart data use and strong partnership. “The proposed plan indicates, in recognizing these principles, that the Cabinet will take data-driven action to address inequities and disparities in outcomes and utilize collective impact strategies to do so.”

## ❖ Governance Strategies

**Dacia** stated that the Cabinet’s core strategies provide a framework for how the Cabinet will work. Specifically, they demonstrate how the Cabinet will set its agenda, how it will measure its impact, how it will coordinate across agencies and with partners, and how it will engage in a more coordinated budget development process to align resources toward improved outcomes for children and youth.

## ❖ Governance Metrics and Outputs

**Dacia** stated that there are two separate methods of measurement in the plan, one is the Strategy Metrics that identify the outputs and target sets for outputs, and help identify some of the end goals of the core strategies. There is a second level of measurement and metrics in the plan and those are focused on outcomes for the children.

## ❖ Desired Outcomes for Children and Youth

**Dacia** presented a slide listing the Cabinet’s desired outcomes and objectives. The Cabinet has identified the following five desired outcome areas as areas for improvement. The five outcomes are all very interrelated and are all looking holistically at what is important for a child’s development. “For each of the outcome areas, we have looked at the Strategic Plans of each of the agencies to identify where there is overlap in objectives in the work that the agencies are aiming to do and identified twelve objectives across the outcome areas.” The following are the outcomes with the objective for each outcome:

- Physically Healthy & Safe
  - Young children develop appropriately by receiving high-quality early healthcare services
  - Adolescents and young adults develop appropriately by receiving regular coordinated healthcare, reducing abuse of substances and accessing reproductive health services
  - Children live in safe and healthy environments
- Behaviorally Able and Emotionally Hopeful
  - Children with (or at risk of) mental and behavioral health issues get appropriate treatment and make successful transitions
- Academically Empowered and Career Ready
  - Children are ready for elementary school and have access to high quality early learning and developmental programs
  - Adolescents and young adults access, afford and complete college
  - Adolescents and young adults prepare for and thrive in appropriate, in-demand jobs
  - Children regularly attend, actively participate and progress appropriately in school
- Socially, Culturally and Civically Engaged
  - Children and adolescents avoid justice system involvement
  - Children and youth engage positively with each other and their communities, and access sports, after school and community-based programming

- Supported by Stable Families and Communities
  - Children and families are supported by stable wages and housing
  - Families with children maintain stability and meet basic needs during periods of household unemployment or under-employment

Dacia indicated that these objectives are shared across more than one Children’s Cabinet agency and are critical to improving child and youth outcomes, requiring tight government coordination. “It is not an exhaustive list, but it is a foundational list which reflects objectives that the Cabinet is positioned to look at closely and to initiate action around that can be measured along shared benchmarks. We also want to be able to think about what comes up as new issues or emerging issues and be able to include those in the future.”

❖ Monitoring Progress

**Dacia** stated that to measure objectives, the Cabinet will look at a shared set of population-level indicators to track overall progress toward the outcomes, and that these will be tracked through data dashboards. Dacia indicated that the Cabinet wants to take the time necessary to ensure that the indicators they choose for the dashboards have strong data and proxy power in relation to desired outcomes. Dacia shared that throughout the planning process agency staff have been able to identify a range of potential indicators and sources ranging from agency-collected data, to the census, to the youth risk behavior survey and we are now positioned to review these sources to develop dashboards. “As dashboards help track progress over time, they also serve to identify areas for needed attention or improvement.”

❖ Strategic Plan Partners

Dacia stated that the plan “lays out who partners are. We have partners from organizations, public-private workgroups and interagency workgroups who stand ready to support the Cabinet and agency staff members have been identified who can also help in leveraging the expertise of these groups by bringing their recommendations to the Cabinet for adoption or implementation.” Dacia indicated that the Cabinet may also look to these partners for guidance and advice on different areas and objectives as they scaffold initiatives towards each objective.

**Dacia** stated that she received some great public comments and positive feedback from our partners who have contributed to the Cabinet’s work by submitting their comments on the draft plan through the new Children’s Cabinet website – [www.kids.ri.gov](http://www.kids.ri.gov).

❖ Timeline

Dacia shared that the Cabinet’s plan lays out a timeline for the next five years. “The timeline considers the different functions of the Cabinet and how we scaffold the infrastructure of the Cabinet - from developing data dashboards, to developing budgeting practices, to initiate launching and outcome improving.”

**Dacia** concluded her presentation of the Strategic Plan and stated “the plan sets the tone, the vision and scope of where the Children’s Cabinet is planning to go. It is a flexible plan that creates space for us to be responsive and to regularly take public engagement and comment which is important to all of the members of the Cabinet.”

**Secretary Roberts** thanked the partners and public who have contributed and commented publicly not only at the previous cabinet meetings, but who also commented on the draft that was available on the website for public comment. Secretary Roberts asked the public and the Cabinet members if there was anyone who felt there was something that was urgent to be considered before the Cabinet deliberates the adoption of the Strategic Plan. There was no comment from the public. Comments from the following Cabinet members were made:

**Commissioner Purcell** stated that he would like to list what our references are for the data points. “The measures are correct, but the data points should be evaluated. A lot of the federal sources are more normalized over time and think they would be good for the Cabinet to have in there. They are good targets but we need to make sure they are not going to go back and forth every year.”

**Barbara Fields** stated that she “would like to see a measurement added under the Physically Healthy and Safe Environment Objective for those who rent, which is the majority of the low income families pay less than 30 percent of their income for housing as an indicator that we might consider.”

**Dr. Alexander-Scott** acknowledged Dacia and expressed appreciation for the tremendous job that she has done and how she has engaged everyone to formulate the Strategic Plan.

**Dacia** responded to Commissioner Purcell’s data point recommendation and stated that this was the issue that the Cabinet received the most substantive comments on from the public so there are a lot of great partners that can help the Cabinet think about whether certain data points are regularly collected, regularly disaggregated and otherwise valuable. Dacia stated that this will be discussed further under the data development dashboards at the next meeting.

**Secretary Roberts** echoed thanks to Dacia for her work, stating “Dacia has done an outstanding job.” The Secretary stated that “any good Strategic Plan is a living document and will need to continue evolve and change and have the flexibility to have continuous improvement based on what this plan delivers to us.” Secretary Roberts thanked Governor Raimondo for being present as the Cabinet plans to adopt the Strategic Plan and turned the meeting to the Governor.

**Governor Raimondo** stated “It is great to be here. I reconvened the Cabinet because it was long overdue and the work that is being done is so important.” The Governor thanked Dacia who she said “has hit the ground running and has done a great job.” The Governor also thanked the Cabinet and partners for all they have done as well. “This Strategic Plan shows that we have a lot of work to do in regard to doing the best we can for the children and families in need. We need to do more; it needs to be collaborative; it needs to be focused on these periods of transition where there is often great vulnerability. We need to leverage private foundation money as well as public funds, private sector and non-profit sector.” The Governor stated that she is “very heartened by that fact that we have a very action-oriented plan in front of us that we can get moving on.” The Governor reiterated “Any good Strategic Plan is a living document and inevitably as we get into it, we will make changes. In fact we should commit ourselves to make continuous improvement as we move forward and learn, and this is an excellent first step to have a plan with metrics we can track and hold accountable and something for every department to work on.” The Governor stated that the Cabinet has her gratitude and support and “it’s a time to keep families in mind especially those who may fall through the cracks, and it is our job to make sure that does not happen.” The Governor thanked everyone for their work in developing the Strategic Plan.

#### ❖ **Vote to Adopt The Strategic Plan**

**Secretary Roberts** thanked the Governor and stated that the plan sets a bold vision for the Cabinet’s work together and is our roadmap moving forward within our agencies and with our community partners. The Secretary asked for a motion to approve the Strategic Plan. Jamia McDonald made a motion to approve, Dr. Alexander Scott made a second motion. The Secretary asked if there were any comments or amendments to be made to the plan.

**Director DiBiase** wanted to clarify that this would be an evolving document moving forward as it relates to future potential metrics that may be identified and should considered being added to the plan.

**Secretary Roberts** stated that yes it will continue to be an evolving document and that one of the partner documents that we are developing will be a budget “that really looks at where we can make investments and how we can leverage those investments most effectively to meet these goals.”

**Secretary Roberts** asked if there were any other comments before the vote was taken. There were no further comments. Secretary Roberts asked the Cabinet all those in favor. All were in favor. None were opposed. The Children’s Cabinet’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan was adopted.

**Barbara Fields** clarified for the record that she was not taking part of the vote as she is not a member of the Cabinet in an official capacity.

**Secretary Roberts** stated that Barbara Fields will not be listed as voting on the Plan. The Secretary asked Dacia to report on the Children’s Cabinet Budget process.

### ❖ Children’s Cabinet Budget

**Dacia** stated that now that the plan has been adopted the Cabinet’s next step is to begin implementing strategies and improving outcomes by utilizing those strategies. Dacia reminded the group that one of the Cabinet’s strategies is coordinated budget development. The Cabinet’s metrics for measuring how well it engages in coordinated budget development are as follows:

- Number of agencies utilizing resource maps to guide investments in children
- Number of new funds secured from the federal government with Cabinet support
- Number of Children’s Cabinet initiatives funded through the state budget
- Number of Children’s Cabinet initiatives funded through public-private partnerships
- Number of budget efficiencies achieved through cross-agency coordination

**Dacia** stated that the Cabinet will assess overall investments in children as they set annual budget priorities, and will develop and utilize child and youth resources maps to track spending toward desired outcomes, identify needed investments, and create efficiencies in budgetary planning across agencies. “The Cabinet will also work to be creative and efficient in funding initiatives for children and youth by leveraging its unique capacity to secure federal funds, seeking cross-agency planning and implementation grants, and funding cross-agency trainings that are focused on improving outcomes for children.”

**Dacia** reiterated that the timeline for coordinated budgeting directs the Cabinet to have Resource Maps prepared by July 2016, so that they are useful to the Cabinet as they are doing their budgeting development for next year. Dacia stated that a resource map is a tool that helps identify funding streams impacting children and youth, assess the impact of those streams on desired outcomes for children, departments, age-groups and other key indicators identified by the Cabinet.

**Dacia** stated that Resource Maps can assist with the following:

- Balance a portfolio of investments: is the overall allocation of spending in line with priorities?
- Coordinate supports and services: help program administrators understand where coordination is warranted.
- Maximize funding opportunities: identify federal matching grants that states and localities could claim.
- Advocate for additional investments: make a compelling case for new investments based on inadequacies in the current levels of funding.

**Dacia** presented a chart from another state which demonstrated a typical government-centered approach to considering state investments, and how funds are organized by agency. “We have been working with Tom Mullaney and the Office of Management and Budget to think through what we are doing to collaborate and have the best outcomes. The Cabinet will need to set parameters and decide what the key questions are on

whether we are spending on positive youth development, prevention or treatment and what types of spending do we see across agencies. We may see that different agencies have more investment in prevention than others.”

**Commissioner Wagner** asked Dacia what would be the denominator because the percentages will be dramatically different. Is it total government expenditures or is it relevant government expenditures.

**Commissioner Purcell** responded that Dacia and OMB have sent the Cabinet a budget by each department with subsets of expenditures. “This allows us to look at the whole budget and how they all connect as they pertain to helping kids.”

**Dacia** stated that she will ask the Cabinet to define what sets of denominators they want to use so that everyone is on the same page. Dacia gave an example from the initial work on this as it pertains to child-centered funding streams – “that in itself is hard to define,” she said. “Is the entirety of the DCYF and RIDE budget child-centered or are we looking specifically at programs and services? Questions like that will have an influence on what we see as our denominators and we would to set those parameters.” Dacia stated that she would be following up with the Cabinet members soon to get their insights on this.

**Dacia** continued presenting sample charts and graphs that demonstrated methods for representing public spending by age range and by source. Dacia stated that “the character and discretion of funds, and how flexible they are especially important when we are thinking about creating initiatives between agencies.”

**Dacia** concluded her update on the Resource Maps and the coordinated budget strategy, and asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions.

**Director Montanaro** stated that in reference to Resource Mapping, “it may be good to look at the regulatory framework around some of those resources so that we can pinpoint as we are looking at those resources on the map, where might those regulations be helpful or impeding in our ability to pull funding together.”

**Director DiBiase** stated “there are many places where departments spend large amounts of money on children.” He suggested that the Cabinet try to capture spending on a per child basis in terms of child welfare work. “Where we are putting a large amount of dollars per child in one place, we may be making certain trade-offs and not getting resources more broadly to a larger group. This probably cuts on the prevention treatment side.”

**Director Montanaro** stated that another thing to consider, as the Cabinet look at some of its goals and objectives is hot-spotting. “Then we can really understand where we have serious issues that may be blocking our fulfillment of goals and objectives for particular pockets of population.”

**Commissioner Purcell** stated “it would be helpful to add the sources whether it be state or legislative earmarks, etc. Some are not moveable, some could be legislative and may not be flexible.”

**Director McDonald** suggested adding categorical spending to the Cabinet’s analysis. She shared that she and Barbara Fields have been discussing housing. “DCYF spends more money on housing than RI Housing does.” Jamia stated that they are trying to share data so they can determine how DCYF money can be better spent. “It may be worth looking at adding categorical spending because each program has different categories inside of it.”

**Director Fields** stated that in reference to expenditures by source, “we should make sure we go after every federal resource available.”

**Director Montanaro** referenced Director McDonald’s point about categorical spending and stated that “one way to think about that is there are certain cross cutting issue that affects the ability to achieve goals and

objectives that are overarching for the Cabinet. In addition to the hot-spotting, the crosscutting platform issues such as housing, employment, and education should be taken into consideration to see how those fit the framework.”

**Dacia** stated she will meet with Elizabeth Gaines from the Forum for Youth Investment and discuss these suggestions and questions with her, then schedule follow-up meetings with the Cabinet Directors to develop as full a list of variables as possible to assist analysis done by the Office of Management and Budget.

**Secretary Roberts** asked the Cabinet that they invest their resources into this process for the next four weeks so that this document is ready to overlay as each department thinks about their program and budgetary decisions within the departments. The Secretary stated that it would be really valuable to the Cabinet to measure their department investments against some of the programs that are serving the children.

**Commissioner Wagner** stated that it would be important to have the Cabinet budget change as the agency budgets change in a relatively automated way because decisions will be made quickly as we go into budget season.

**Dacia** stated that as of right now, the first round of financial info the Cabinet has received all line up with the accounting lines that OMB is navigating with agency budgets. “So if something changes there, we should be able to see it reflected in the Cabinet Budget that we are creating.”

**Regina Costa** inquired as to how employees within the agencies factor into the budget. “Will there be direction from Cabinet leadership on how to identify where your staff fits in terms of the categories.”

**Dacia** stated that the Cabinet will need to think through the parameters in terms of whether it will look at programs and services spending and/or also on administrative and employee costs. “We need to define the parameters we want to look at for this year and then figure out by agency what those parameters look like.”

**Dr. Alexander-Scott** wanted to confirm that the Cabinet is looking at a Resource Map for the State, and not just speaking of their state agency budget components that contribute to this. “While Dacia has mentioned that she is working with the Cabinet and their staff, there should be some element of engagement with the providers and stakeholders here representing various entities that are also a key part of this Resource Map.”

**Commissioner Wagner** asked Dacia “Will dollars that would be spent by an external partner be factored into the percentages that we would look at in terms of the dashboard.”

**Dacia** agreed to having public involvement in responding to our first round and stated: “We would need more thinking on how to understand statewide, not just government, where spending is and it would be very informative for the Cabinet to know as they are making choices to know where there’s other spending from other types of entities.” Dacia stated that she did not believe the Cabinet would be able to accomplish this during this year’s budget, but hopes to include it moving forward.

**Commissioner Wagner** stated that an aspirational goal would be to have the allocations reflect all sources of allocation, not just the Departments.

#### ❖ Public Comment

**Secretary Roberts** opened the floor for public comment.

**Dr. Bill Hollingshead** stated that he and quite a few members of the public have seen a few attempts in previous administrations to come up with an integrated children’s budget and informed the Cabinet that one of the take home lessons is, “you can spend a lot of time looking for precision where it really doesn’t matter, and that it is just a good estimate that matters.” Dr. Hollingshead stated “We should look at some kind of

broad brush estimate of the other investments, some departments may be able to make big investments in the immediate needs of the children, while others may not.” Dr. Hollingshead also suggested looking at the avertable costs of failure at the training school.

**Sue Pearlmutter** from the School of Social Work at Rhode Island College stated that “the partnership between departments is really a partnership with the whole state, and there are a lot more services directed at children and families in the “private sector,” although many of us in the private sector are receivers of government funds. There has to be a way to get a full picture of the contributions made by those organizations that surround us in this room. In regard to the question raised earlier by Regina Costa as to whether the Cabinet is going to look at the contribution of staff, there is no way to avoid looking at the contribution of staff, because 60-75 percent of your outlets are contributed by staff. Those are the people whose job it is to produce those outcomes, so there has to be a way to include that in the direct contribution, and not just considering it as administrative costs.”

**Commissioner Purcell** stated “it is a great idea to look at the non-government agencies that receive state funding and ask them how much of their different budgets are used for children, and believes we could get an external quantification of that.”

**Sue Pearlmutter** suggested “if the Cabinet is looking for what would be the denominator, you would need to look at it more holistically what is being spent in achieving outcomes for kids and families.”

**Secretary Roberts** stated “Ms. Pearlmutter has a valid point and there is spending in departments such as DCYF and Education that are not in our traditional state spending, but we also need to be able to weed out the things that are in the private community that are passed through state funds so that we are not double counting a lot of these resources.” Secretary Roberts asked Dacia to facilitate a survey of our environment and where those resources are and what their goals are and what their extent is.

**Director McDonald** suggested that the Cabinet work with Casey Family Programs to see if they can support some type of activity to aggregate what is happening.

**Director Fields** asked to clarify whether Ms. Pearlmutter was speaking of those that deliver such as an NGO or was she speaking of philanthropic partners such as foundations and corporations that make investments.

**Sue Pearlmutter** stated that she was speaking about the delivery of services, but at some point you will need to know what other resources are flowing in.

**Commissioner Wagner** stated “It wouldn’t be hard to do, we would need to identify a pool of partners, ask them what they are spending above and beyond what the departments have given them, and have them fill out a web form where all that data would be collected into a database and information can be extracted from that.”

**Secretary Roberts** informed the Cabinet that she needed to leave for a meeting with Governor Raimondo, and turned the meeting over to Cabinet Vice Chair, Commissioner Wagner. Secretary Roberts stated “the Cabinet did some very important work today,” and thanked Dacia Read, the Cabinet and all who contributed.

**Director DiBiase** stated “It would be helpful to know where all the philanthropic funds are, but when we talk about children in need, it is largely a governmental exercise.” Director DiBiase indicated that he did not want to minimize the contributions from the philanthropic entities and where other investments come from, but stated that his impression is that most dollars are coming from state, local and the federal government.

**Dr. Alexander-Scott** sought to clarify that as Director DiBiase was not minimizing the philanthropic investments, it is the responsibility of those governmental agencies to take on that role. “Who is to say that if

that were to happen fully, then the philanthropic entities wouldn't have to do what they have taken on as well. We as state agencies need to take responsibility for addressing the needs of our youth."

**Director McDonald** stated "If we start diverting more children from our care, you will start to see an impact in our community, where if we are not funding it, they are going to have to identify funding to offset any of that activity, so it is important to understand and watch over time the movement of the investments based on policy decisions because we would see it fluctuate."

**Director Montantaro** stated "When you start to look at the total picture of how much of it is private sector activity how much is governmental activity, there are entities such as Kids Count that already have put together compilations of information. There are a bunch of community and data assessments that are done quite regularly within the safety net and get 80 percent of the picture without having to reinvent a survey."

**Darlene Allen** from Adoption Rhode Island stated "Once you get the data you can move it in a variety of different ways, where you can also harness additional support from the private philanthropic partners if they really understand where the funding is dedicated now and where the needs are now."

**Elizabeth Burke Bryant** from Kids Count commended the Governor for reconvening the Children's Cabinet and thanked Dacia and the Cabinet for their leadership in moving the Strategic Plan along and adopting it. Elizabeth reiterated "What we know and all the research about what works and the cost benefit analysis of various investments in terms of early intervention. We all are very concerned about older children too, but in the context of a children's budget it seems like it goes without saying to really reinforce that. Also, because of our new data capacity of longitudinal data systems starting at birth, and joining together with the Kids Net system with the longitudinal system that RIDE is building out, we are really going to have one comprehensive picture with single identifier numbers to really track the kids over time and with that image of vertical integration we also know from the research that it is the dosage along the way, and one thing builds upon the other in terms of what works, rather than a scattered approach where some kids get lucky and they get into some level of service but they don't get the next level of service which can undo some of the outcomes. Rhode Island Kids Count looks forward in continuing to assist with informing the Cabinet's work."

**Susan Korte** member of the United Way Adult Education Access Working Group stated "It is important that the parent's education level be considered, and that the budget for adult education be considered in the Children's Cabinet Budget." Susan stated that there are many parents that cannot read and if they do not have an 8<sup>th</sup> level they cannot participate in workforce training.

**Director Jensen** responded that that issue is something the Cabinet will consider under its "Supported by Families and Stable Communities" work. "Much of the funding is in Commissioner Wagner's area, but it's a dual responsibility, because it's preparing people to get ready for work."

**Ron Cypher** of Bradley Hospital stated "Having a budget allocated for children is step one, there is one critical second step which has many components and that is to figure out if the dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively and part of the Strategic Plan is about interagency cooperation and working with partners." Ron stated that he sits on several workgroups mentioned in the Strategic Plan which continually encounter multiple initiatives targeted at the same problem. "We continue to encounter dollars spent on things that we either know or suspect do not work, and dollars not being spent on things that we know do work. There are a lot of people in the community who would be willing to advise what works and what doesn't work and what can give the best return on investment. Ron stated that Washington State uses academic partners very effectively in deciding what kinds of policy and implementations to use to turn around the best outcomes.

**Brenda Amodei** of BHDDH, stated that BHDDH has funds for adolescent and transitioning youth, and suggested that when the Cabinet is in the process of defining their parameters for the Resource Mapping,

they consider compiling the data by age ranges or if it could be disaggregated. “Having data by age range would be a great help to the department.”

**Lisa Guillette** of Foster Forward stated “In terms of the total expenditures by source and character. On the character piece, in terms of discretion, that is where some of the private investment within the community is really the most pivotal. It’s the glue that connects some of the things that otherwise would be disparate in our government funding. It could be better harnessed with the Strategic objectives by having this conversation with the private funders to really provide the bridge funding to ameliorate between where we are today and what our desired future state is without having to put in additional government investment in right now.” Lisa stated that the Cabinet could get that information rather quickly by looking at the providers 990 forms, which include specific line items that indicate where their money is coming from and sources other than government. “If the Cabinet asked the providers to do some resource mapping in terms of how those investments line up to that objective criteria they are looking for kids, it would be very informative in helping everyone get on the same page faster.”

**Commissioner Wagner** thanked the public for their comment and turned the meeting to Dacia who wanted to comment on the timeline for the funding streams.

**Dacia Read** stated that four week timeline that the Secretary had mentioned is for assessing agency funding streams towards outcomes, and the other contributions that were offered today will be discussed further with the Cabinet. Dacia stated that if anyone has any further comment or suggestions they would like to add, they could do so by clicking on the comment box on the Children’s Cabinet Website at [www.kids.ri.gov](http://www.kids.ri.gov). Dacia stated that she would be happy to receive recommendations and share them with the Cabinet.

❖ **Adjournment:**

**Commissioner Wagner** asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none. Commissioner Wagner thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. Director Jensen made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Purcell seconded. All were in favor, 0 opposed. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.