

The Children's Cabinet

Monday, January 4, 2016

DOA Conference Room A

10:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Approved 1/25/2016

Members in Attendance: 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:** The Honorable Gina Raimondo; Melba DePena.

❖ Call to Order and Agenda Overview:

Secretary Roberts called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3rd meeting. Commissioner Purcell made a motion to approve and Director Montanaro 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: “there will be follow-up on a few items that had been raised at previous meetings. Dacia Read will give brief updates and follow up on the Data Dashboards.” Secretary Roberts stated: “Jessica Cigna from Housing Works RI will give a presentation to guide a more in-depth discussion on housing and homelessness.” Secretary Roberts added that she and Director Barbara Fields from Rhode Island Housing had discussed the overlap between housing issues, health issues, human service issues as well as education as people become more transient and there are issues both with funding as well as the success of children in school. Secretary Roberts also stated that Jamia McDonald would give a brief update regarding ongoing work at DCYF.

❖ Cabinet Updates:

Dacia stated that she is “currently convening departmental staff meetings to work on outcome areas. The teams will convene quarterly, and as needed to align efforts and scaffold interagency activities that can move toward the objectives identified in the Children’s Cabinet Strategic Plan.” Dacia thanked the Directors for the input she had received from each of them on this effort, and stated that she will send a final proposal to them this week. Once confirmed, she will share the list publically with partners and rely on staff teams to vet proposals and recommendations from workgroups and other partners.

Dacia stated as a follow up on the assessment of private spending and non profit, she has been working to identify potential partners who may be able to help the Cabinet survey private spending toward outcomes across RI, and that she will keep everyone posted on the progress of securing a research partner to engage.

Dacia stated that she has been able to meet with several community partners over the last two months, and wanted to encourage that others reach out. “As staff teams convene and develop action items for the Cabinet, we want to continue engaging individuals who can provide insight and capacity to our efforts. The Children’s Cabinet website (www.kids.ri.gov) has been updated to include a contact page, if we have not yet met and you would like to share your work with the Cabinet please contact me through the site to share information.”

Dacia stated that an initial funding stream assessment was completed, and over 300 funding streams were identified that have an impact on children, youth and families across ten agencies represented on the Cabinet. Dacia indicated that this was a great first round effort by the Cabinet and their staff. Dacia reported that the Office of Management and Budget is currently helping to confirm the initial assessments and draw findings

from this work that can direct the development of resource maps over the next few months. Dacia will keep the updates coming as they are available.

Secretary Roberts asked the Cabinet and members of the public if there were any questions or comments for Dacia. There were none. Secretary Roberts thanked Dacia for her updates and encouraged the public to contact Dacia through the website if they want to share any recommendations or information with her.

Secretary Roberts introduced Jessica Cigna, Research and Policy Director at HousingWorksRI.

❖ HousingWorksRI Presentation

Jessica informed the Cabinet that HWRI was founded in 2004 and integrated as a program into Roger Williams University in 2014, where they conduct research and analyze data on how it connects to issues surrounding housing affordability, economic development and outcomes in health and education in Rhode Island.

Jessica reported on where the population of kids under 18 years of age live in Rhode Island. She reported that about twenty-one percent of the State population are children, and forty-five percent of the children live in the urban core: Providence, East Providence, Cranston and Warwick. About 30% of all households in the State have children which had declined with a loss of approximately 35,000 children from 2000 to 2013 down 33%. However, the number of households where kids live currently is evenly distributed among most of the communities.

Barbara Fields asked Jessica if she had a breakdown of the sub populations, by ethnicity.

Jessica stated that she did not at this time, but that she can get that information.

Jessica continued her presentation on the issue of Housing Affordability. “During the recession there was a decline in home prices, however, the houses were still not affordable to many families given what their incomes were. A family would need income of \$67,552 a year to afford a \$215,000 average single family home. Looking at it right now, this would be affordable in only five communities across the state, as housing prices are above that affordable level.”

Barbara Fields stated that RI Housing provides first mortgages which they buy from brokers and lenders, and the average income for their buyers is \$60,000 a year, and there was a huge increase in 2015 over 2014. “There is a lot of stock out there and RI Housing is helping people get into homeownership when and where possible with a mortgage that meets their family’s needs as opposed to what had happened in the early 2000s.”

Jessica stated that it is interesting that rent prices didn’t decline during the recession. “We stayed about the same over time. There were a number of reasons, there were homeowners who were foreclosing and reentering the market and becoming renters which added demand. There were many multi-families that foreclosed as well which meant that there were a lot more homes lost also adding demand for the rental market. As of right now, a household would need to earn \$46,880 in order to afford the average rent of \$1,172 per month. If you look at the current average rent and the median renter income of \$31,000 families would not be able to afford the average priced apartment in any Rhode Island community.”

Jessica discussed employment and income, stating that “Rhode Island had a very high unemployment rate and has seen job growth post-recession with lower paying jobs. About 70 percent of those jobs now pay under \$50,000. From 2005 to current date, the median income for all households has declined by 12%. Between 2006 and 2014 income inequality in Rhode Island grew the fastest of any state with 9.3% increase. According the Gini Index, which measures the distribution of income to determine distributed wealth, a measure of zero means perfect equality while a measure of 100 means complete inequality. In 2006, RI had a Gini Index of 44.2 ranking RI 31st in the US; the US had a 46.4 Gini Index. In 2014, RI had a Gini Index of 48.3 ranking RI 8th in the US; the US had a 48.0 Gini Index.”

Jessica discussed Housing Affordability: “whether you rent or own, the taxes, utilities, insurance must be at 30 percent or less of the gross household income in order for it to be Affordable. Households that spend more than 30 percent of their gross income are cost-burdened. Households that spend more than 50 percent of their gross income are severely cost-burdened. Thirty-nine percent of all households in Rhode Island are cost-burdened, highest in New England. Rhode Island ranks 6th highest in the country for cost burdened homeowner households; 13th highest for renters. Sixty-one percent of all RI households are owners, and 39 percent are renters. Connecticut is ahead of us, and Massachusetts is behind us on both of these statistics.”

“Forty-three percent of all households with children are cost burdened. 52,458 out of 121,841 are households with children, 61 percent of households with children own and 39 percent rent. Looking at affordable housing, Rhode Island has almost 37,000 Section 8 housing units that are affordable across the state. Only 37 percent of them are for families, most are for the elderly and special needs.”

Jessica continued to discuss the overall housing stock in the State stating: “Rhode Island ranks fourth for highest percent of housing stock built before 1940, 33 percent compared to 13 percent nationally. Seventy-six percent of housing built before 1980, making elevated blood lead levels a concern. Rhode Island is not building new, year-round housing units, since 2000, RI has had the second smallest increase in housing units nationally. Although lead poisoning continues to decline, it remains a persistent problem. A Lead Technical Study report done by DataSpark a few years ago found that in just the four urban areas, Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, and Central Falls 69 percent of all properties were not required to comply with the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act law based on the type of housing. Only 31 percent were required to comply with the law and of that 31 percent, only 20 percent did comply. 80 percent of the properties were not compliant this was five years after the law was enacted between 2005 and 2009.”

Barbara Fields stated that one of the other implications of having the oldest housing stock in the country, is that people live in substandard conditions that have mold which have health impacts and code violations. “Particularly for those on the health side, the conditions in the housing may be contributing to problems for children.”

Secretary Roberts stated that this is about compliance with the law, and asked Dr. Alexander-Scott about the elevated lead level rates and what that trend is and where we are among the urban communities.

Dr. Alexander-Scott stated that she did not have those figures but can get rate numbers and added that in the midst of this, one of the changes is the requirement of going from less than 10 as a level to less than 5 as a level. Dr. Alexander Scott stated that we did have more than 95 percent of children that were at the less than 10 level, but that number has changed now that we have gone down to the less than 5 level. Dr. Alexander Scott stated: “This a priority for the Department particularly for this year, knowing the outcomes of the lead poisoning issue, this one of the programs that has been most vulnerable in terms of funding because of how dependent it is on state funding. The Department is trying to be strategic about having a way to maintain it so that we can not only keep it from getting shut down, but the goal is to expand it to address the issue of going from levels less than 10 to less than 5.”

Jamia McDonald stated that this issue becomes a problem as the Department pushes for placement in foster homes and kinship placement. “We run into this regulation as preventing us from placement with recruited foster families because the homes where the families reside need to be in compliance. So if you look at the age of the housing stock, it has a detrimental impact on the ability to recruit and place children in a lot of these communities.”

Commissioner Wagner asked Dr. Alexander-Scott in regard to the 10 versus 5 levels, are one of those levels associated with behavioral manifestations.

Dr. Alexander-Scott said “Absolutely that both levels have impact. It would be ideal to have a less than 2.5 level.” Dr. Alexander-Scott explained that there are lead centers throughout the state which is the particular area

that has the funding cut risk. “There used to be \$1 million that would go towards funding lead centers positioned in communities that providers could refer their patients to help address and work with the housing in areas to address the lead concerns. The lead centers are part of the remediation, and the screening of lead among children occurs in the pediatric care office.”

Barbara Fields stated that we have made tremendous progress over the years in the State with respect to the lead paint issue, and there have been advocacy groups working with the Department of Health and with the Attorney General’s Office settlement. Barbara said that they can get the data to show where we are currently and where we need to go.

Secretary Roberts stated that it is time for a fresh look at this issue, and perhaps the Department of Health can bring back an update on data and what the current practices are.

Jessica Cigna added that when families apply for a Section 8 vouchers they work with the Office of Housing and Community Development to make sure they are not going into non-compliant homes.

Jessica continued her presentation and discussed the Mobility and Stability for families with children in Rhode Island. “Residential mobility may lead to school mobility, and school mobility is one of the most documented indicators impacting a child’s performance in school. Proficiency rates on state exams find that students with high mobility were doing worse than students with low mobility. This is also consistent with national research which suggests that long term stability in neighborhoods leads to better outcome for children and families.”

Commissioner Wagner stated that RIDE is in the process of looking into creating a statutory policy that would give families the right to opt into an inter-district transfer across all Rhode Island public schools. “This would allow a family who moves 10 minutes away from one community to another community the option to have their children stay at their current school rather than transfer out to a new school, this would lower the mobility rate with a simple policy change. The parents would have the affirmative right to decide whether they want their child to stay or move to a new school, and the school district would then verify if they have the capacity to receive children from outside of their district once they serve their current residents. One of the core reasons for this policy proposal is to address the mobility issues.”

Jessica Cigna continued her presentation stating: “12 percent of households with children moved between 2009 and 2013 which is the same percent of households without kids. This represents 14,800 households with children moving. Over 4,500 families with children moved from one part of Rhode Island to another, and of those that moved, about 30 percent moved within Rhode Island and 70 percent from another state. 24 percent of those that moved were renters and 4 percent were household owners.”

Jessica stated: “22 percent of households with children had SNAP assistance as compared to 11 percent of households without children. 59 percent of the households with children that are cost burdened renters had annual SNAP assistance.”

Director DiBiase inquired as to whether the SNAP benefits are counted as income when collecting the data.

Jessica stated that yes SNAP benefits would be counted as income. She said that the data is collected by the Census.

Jessica discussed Homelessness in Rhode Island, stating that in 2014 child homelessness was the lowest since 1998. One of the reasons for this decline may be attributed to the sixty families that took advantage of rental vouchers distributed by the State provided housing dollars for and more families were gaining employment.

Barbara Fields added that part of the change is also due to some change in policy and program which was a program focused on Housing First a national program that the State has been instituting locally, which definitely had an impact on families.

Jessica stated that in regard to State and bond dollars spent on housing and homelessness per capita, Rhode Island is far below with a rate of \$8.46 per person, While Massachusetts is at a rate of \$99.71 and Connecticut is at a rate of \$76.98.

Barbara Fields added that the disparity got worse in Fiscal Year '15, Massachusetts went up from \$95 to \$99 and Connecticut went up from \$57 to \$76 where Rhode Island went from just above \$10 down to below \$9.

Director DiBiase inquired as to where we stand nationally.

Barbara Fields stated that she didn't have the national data, but that if you were to look at East Coast states, Rhode Island is below, however, nationally may be different. Barbara stated she can get that data, but Rhode Island has never been much above \$10 or \$11 over the last 10 years.

Secretary Roberts stated it would be valuable to look at a national average, and to clearly look at a state that isn't running a state run public housing which would also modify those numbers.

Jessica added that the way to fund affordable housing is both capital and operating expenses. Massachusetts and Connecticut are doing both and Rhode Island is doing some capital but most comes from operating dollars.

Jessica concluded her presentation with a discussion on programs in the State. "In FY2015 the budget increased the real estate conveyance tax and allocated new revenue to the Housing Resources Commission which creates a dedicated funding stream for housing subsidies as well as homelessness prevention, housing retention and lead abatement. Jessica discussed a program called Opening Doors Rhode Island is a state based voucher program to decrease the number of homeless individuals and families. The plan recommends creating housing options for families involved with DCYF, increasing access to wraparound services for families at risk of involvement with DCYF, and expanding access to affordable child care options; improving access to services that foster early childhood development, educational stability and youth development. Jessica also discussed the HousingFirst program where you get someone housing first, as soon as possible and get them the wraparound services they need. It is a proven method for chronically homeless across the country and is also being applied towards the veterans housing as well as families. Jessica also discussed the GradGrant Program which is a program to help younger folks stay in Rhode Island and start families here."

Barbara Fields stated that to Jessica's point that there is both operating support and capital investment, with the depletion of the last bond, there is no capital being invested in building new housing, so that remains one of the challenges.

Secretary Roberts thanked Jessica for her presentation and stated that this issue has received the attention of the Governor in reviewing the Opening Doors Report and the fact that there is a Governor's Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness which has been inactive. The Governor is directing that the council be reconvened. The Secretary reported that she and Mike Tondra from the Division of Planning is the Chair of the Council met to discuss the reactivation of the Council.

Secretary Roberts asked the Cabinet if they had any questions or comments.

Commissioner Wagner inquired about the cost-burden stats that Jessica had discussed: "The percentage reflected a housing choice, homeownership vs. rental, and asked if she you looked at the percent who were cost burdened across both, would the stats look the same. Because if someone is cost burdened because they were trying to buy a home, those stats could look differently if those people decided to rent, because the median income for the folks trying to buy a home is larger than the median income of folks that are renting."

Director McDonald inquired: "If we didn't encourage people to buy houses and they were able to afford rentals, would there enough rental property?"

Barbara Fields responded: “According to the data with people earning below the median we are over 30,000 units short. The reason the rent was going up while the housing decline was because people who were foreclosed went into the rental market, and younger people who are cost burdened by student loans.” Barbara stated: “This is also a federal issue as the homeowner deduction is something that encourages people to buy a home. The homeowner interested deduction in this country is three times the entire budget of US Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

Director Jensen added: “If we were to do a lot to promote and move people into rental, we would then drive the rental prices up.”

Director McDonald stated “We have programs that give families money to stabilize their housing and questioned if we are driving them in the wrong direction or into an avenue that is not likely to be successful, she is interested in seeing if the data sliced differently whether our programs and policies are in line.”

Director DiBiase thanked Jessica for her presentation and stated that we are focusing on the right things such as affordability and children in need. Director DiBiase added that he had read an article about how Rhode Island has fared so poorly in recovering from the value of their housing. “Rhode Island is down 20 percent where the northeast and New England has already come back, and while that doesn’t often hit the most disadvantaged children, it does have a big effect on wealth and the ability of parents to actually fund college education.” Director DiBiase stated he had come across a lot of people who want to sell their homes and move into something smaller and capture those savings. That may be data worth looking at.

Barbara Fields stated that she received notification that we will be receiving funding from the federal government to assist people who are underwater with their mortgages. Barbara added that another major shift in the homeownership market is that if you look back to the 1950’s, people who were 70 and 80 years of age sold their homes for something smaller, and now people are staying in their homes so the cycle has an impact of housing being available. We are looking at that trend to see what can be done as far as a flow in the market.

Dr. Alexander-Scott thanked Barbara Fields and Jessica Cigna for their leadership on the Housing and Homelessness issue. The discussion aligns with what the Department is continually promoting in helping to engage in conversation addressing social and environmental deterrents in which housing is a perfect and necessary example. Dr. Alexander-Scott stated that her department sees it in the family visiting program when staff are going into communities to understand what is needed to connect resources, housing is a critical need both in quantity and quality. As we are tackling this issue as a Children’s Cabinet moving forward she would like to incorporate the demographics into the data so we can continue to understand what folks in the urban populations look like and what their needs are in regard to health access, school, as well as the other areas as we align that with the housing cost burdens.

Secretary Roberts asked the public members of the audience if they had any questions or comments.

Patricia Flanagan stated that she is aware of many families doubling up and knows of 15 people living in a 3 bedroom apartment and asked whether people such as this case and from shelters are included amongst the population of homelessness.

Jessica Cigna stated that these numbers come from the State’s Homeless Management Information System database. Homeless shelters or agencies that assist the homeless population add the cases to the database.

Director Montanaro added that health centers also add to the State’s Homeless Management Information System database. When people come in to a community health center, such as Thundermist, that definition that is used for homelessness, which included doubling up, returning home living with relatives or friends, meets that definition and is captured and information is added to the database. So you don’t necessarily have to be living in a shelter to hit that number.

Jessica Cigna informed the Cabinet that this number did not count the persons who are doubling up, but that the numbers only come from the homeless shelters.

Cicely Dove of Crossroads Rhode Island wanted to clarify that the information that is pertained in the presentation are reflective of the homeless folks that have been identified as folks sleeping in unsafe situations or presenting at shelters. Crossroads knows that there is a subpopulation that is doubled up out of control and is growing daily that they cannot capture in the data. That's part of the reason of trying to scale it down so we can get a tangible number so that they can provide the services that are needed.

Elizabeth Burke Bryant commented on the lead poisoning issue stating that Kids Count has been tracking lead poisoning since 1995 and there has been a significant decrease of children with lead poisoning entering kindergarten. "In 1998, in the four core cities 81 percent of all kids entering kindergarten had a history of lead poisoning even at the 5 level, and in 2015 that number went down to 13 percent in those four core cities at the 5 level. For the rest of the state during that time frame the numbers went from 67 percent down to 9 percent." Elizabeth stated that we have to keep supporting the lead poison efforts otherwise this progress could easily turnaround.

Anna Cano Morales stated that it is important to keep an eye on racial, ethnic and placed based disparities particularly in our urban core cities when you are looking at the data. Also, in regard to the renter vs. homeownership discussion, she stated that Latino's have an extremely low home ownership rate in Rhode Island, so there is a larger macroeconomic question that needs to be asked. "How do you take a growing population such as Latinos and give them access to the tools that they need for homeownership. It's part of economics, jobs, health, and education. Seventy five percent of Latinos are already renters, and wanted to caution the Cabinet to take a real hard look at the racial and ethnic aspect."

Angela Anderson from Hasbro wanted to inform the Cabinet of a small subpopulation of families with children who are very ill and dying, where parents are spending all their time at the hospitals with their children who therefore do not have the ability pay their rent or mortgages. If they take off from work they possibly lose their job, if they go to work, they can't be with their child. Angela stated that she wanted to bring to light that this population does exist and it would be fantastic if they could get some type of assistance. "It's not just about the one child that is sick but the other children in the household suffer living with the bare minimum. Then there are the aftereffects of when the child dies with the parents not being able to return to work right away and patch things back together."

Linda Katz from the Economic Progress Institute also highlighted a subpopulation of families who receive cash assistance. There is about one-third of families receive cash assistance who are in subsidized housing but that means there are two-thirds are not and they struggle to pay for housing and impacts the stability of those kids and the ability of those parents to engage in obtaining services. Linda suggested that perhaps the TANF population is something that can also be looked at.

Secretary Roberts thanked everyone for their comments and asked Director McDonald to provide an update on her ongoing efforts to improve services for children and families at DCYF.

Director McDonald stated that over the last year they made an assessment of the agency and developed a strategic plan which had 28 objectives around three goals which they have been working to implement over the last 10 months. DCYF is also working with the Networks of Care in negotiating a final contract extension through March 31st of this year, and at the conclusion of this 90 day extension, DCYF will take back all of the remaining administrative functions which had been located at the Networks. "Therefore, placement and referral activity as well as financial management, quality assurance program evaluation as well as the contract management will all return to the Department." Jamia stated that the Department also has 45 other contracts vendors outside of that Network structure, and DCYF has engaged directly with those 45 vendors and with the assistance of the two primary networks as we transition activity back to the department "The Department will

assume direct contracts with any of the providers underneath those two networks as we begin in mid-January to re-procure entire service array around the outcomes to make sure we are getting those outcome based contracts, expanding the community based services. “It will be a very hectic 60-90 days for the agency and we are meeting twice daily and working aggressively to get all of the administrative functions back in-house.” Jamia also stated that “national partners have been working with us over the last six months to redesign those functions, and use the national best practice on how to efficiently manage placement and referral processes so we will have very aggressive timelines and protocols in place.” The Department will be communicating regularly with our partners, courts, the contractors that are both with us and subs through the networks.” Jamia also stated that the Department has four FCCP contracts which were the first phase of our System of Care implementation and those contracts are being extended for one year to stabilize the community based side of the Department. “So we have been working with our FCCP partners to refine and improve activities as the agency works very hard to solve the issues and to assess and identify needs early in the process. All of the direct care services will remain out in the community with the providers, but placement and referral activity will come back to the department.”

Regina Costa asked if she could have a copy of the Department’s Strategic Plan, and questioned who the national partners were that she mentioned who are working with the Department.

Director McDonald stated that the Strategic Plan was part of DCYF’s Budget submittal, and that she would email it to her. Jamia stated that the national partners are the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Delloitte, Harvard Kennedy School – Government Performance Lab and the Casey Family Program who are assisting in working on various aspects of the agency.

Secretary Roberts thanked Jamia and asked Dacia Read to give an update on Data Dashboards.

❖ Data Dashboards

Dacia Read discussed the Cabinet’s desire to collaboratively decide on data dashboard indicators and a range of potential indicators were included in the Children’s Cabinet Strategic Plan. The indicators were generated by agency staff and public partners throughout the strategic planning process. For each agency there are a number of performance measures that are queued up for specific agency level objectives and they are very valuable to us when we are looking at cross-agency opportunities to collaborate, but they may not be the items we want to put on the data dashboard because we really want that to be at the population-level that provides a big picture allowing us to see big issues and issues of disparity. These population-level issues could be disaggregated on a regular basis where they can be useful to identify where there are disparities for action.

Dacia reiterated the three ways that the cabinet would be using the data:

1. To measure how well we implement our proposed strategies – the Cabinet detailed specific “strategic metrics” that can be used to measure this.
2. To drive our initiatives/activities and ensure progress toward the objectives that we think will get us to our outcomes.
3. To keep an eye on population-level trends that we want to see improvement around – using data dashboards to track this.

Dacia stated that Rhode Island was ranked 31st overall in the nation for child-wellbeing according to the Annie E. Casey report over the last year which publishes population-level data on a national scale that looks at key elements of child wellbeing in four areas and is compared to other states. It’s this kind of big picture view that we can facilitate through our data dashboards to spur action and focus attention over time.

Dacia stated that she would like to have deliberate conversations with the Cabinet over the next few meetings to discuss which population of indicators the Cabinet will choose. There were several potential indicators listed in the Strategic Plan, however, she would like to confirm that the indicators we choose are the ones that we think

will give us the most data power and proxy power to show progress towards the outcomes that the Cabinet wants to achieve. Dacia gave an overview of the Annie E. Casey indicators comparing Rhode Island to the National level that show trends over time on the data dashboards. Annie E. Casey looks at Health, Education, Economic Wellbeing and Family & Community. Dacia stated that in addition to those indicators, the Cabinet had decided to also add other outcome areas.

Dacia continued to discuss the Physically Healthy and Safe indicators from Annie E. Casey and stated that Rhode Island has done well, compared to the national average on most of their indicators, thanks to the hard work of the cabinet and the partners in the audience. We have received a number of suggestions from the Departmental staff around other indicators such as the percentage rate of children with asthma, obesity, medical homes, child/youth maltreatment, birth to teens, households experiencing food insecurity, and children living in safe and stable housing. Dacia stated that the departmental staff teams will meet and give their feedback and contribute a series of suggestions on the outcome areas. The information resulting from the staff meeting will be circulated to the Cabinet prior to the next meeting for them to consider the indicators, so that by the next meeting we will have a more firm list of indicators to review. Dacia also asked the members of the public who have recommendations that have a strong regular source that can be disaggregated regularly and stick to that population-level so we can key in on big issues over time, and where we can see disparities it would be very helpful for them to contact her with that information.

Secretary Roberts thanked Dacia, and informed the Cabinet that as we have the metrics that we are following at the department levels, the Governor will also be following metrics and selecting similar priorities but also using the similar data sources therefore we need to settle on the approach and make sure we are consistent so we don't have different types of data on the same measure at different places within state government.

❖ Public Comment

Secretary Roberts opened the floor for public comment.

Commissioner Purcell asked if the Cabinet could get an overview of legislative proposals for the next Children's Cabinet Meeting.

Secretary Roberts stated that the overview of legislative proposals would be on the agenda for the January 25th meeting. Secretary asked if the public had any comments.

Andrew Bramsen of DataSpark informed the Cabinet as well as the public that he had brought copies of the policy brief that was done by DataSpark in regard to the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law.

Secretary Roberts thanked Andrew for bringing that information.

❖ Adjournment:

Secretary Roberts asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none. Secretary Roberts thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. Director McDonald made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Wagner seconded. All were in favor, 0 opposed. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.