

The Children's Cabinet

Monday, March 28, 2016

DOA Conference Room A

10:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Approved 6/27/16

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

❖ Call to Order and Agenda Overview:

Commissioner Wagner called the meeting to order, stating he will facilitate the meeting in Secretary Roberts' absence as she is out of state. Commissioner Wagner stated that Eric Beane is attending on behalf of Governor Raimondo and Directors Montanaro and DePena have been granted excused absences by Secretary Roberts as they are tending to other necessary state business. The current Child Advocate, Regina Costa, is also unable to attend as she is wrapping up her tenure this week and we anticipate that the new Child Advocate will join us as a member of the Cabinet beginning at our next meeting. The approval of the minutes will take place once a couple more directors arrive to make a quorum.

Commissioner Wagner stated that Director Jensen and his colleagues will give a presentation regarding the proposed WIOA state plan. The plan forwards our shared goal related to adolescents and young adults being prepared for appropriate, in-demand jobs. The plan also requires a significant amount of cross-agency and public-private alignment, and we are grateful to Director Jensen for bringing this work to the Cabinet's attention. After Director Jensen's presentation, we will review the final two data dashboard indicators, and leave time for public comment and questions. Commissioner Wagner turned the meeting over to Director Jensen.

❖ Youth Workforce Development – WIOA State Plan

Director Jensen stated Sarah Blusiewicz, Senior Advisor at the Department of Labor and Training is drafting the WIOA Youth Workforce Development Plan and she will be giving the presentation of the proposed plan. Director Jensen gave a brief background of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Plan, stating it replaces WIA the Workforce Innovation Act. Director Jensen added that \$13 million comes into Rhode Island to run a series of programs meant to help people get back into work, primarily adult and youth. WIA and WIOA fund the Local Workforce Investment Boards. WIOA allows a state to make reforms by revisiting a whole series of small policies that, taken in an aggregate, can change the way we do things.

Commissioner Purcell stated that the way the WIA was previously set up, they would need to go to the local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) to get support for various programs, and asked if the WIOA changes how that is set up and how the money is disbursed.

Director Jensen stated that it will remain the same process, however, it allows us to work more directly with the local WIBs in making needed changes to align the \$13 million and work together to move people into training that really matters for the economy. The Brookings Report is important, because it gives us a snapshot of what kind of jobs we have in the state and how we work to help those sectors of the economy grow the way they should.

Commissioner Wagner asked if this plan is good for kids 1.) because the kids benefit from their families going to work; and/or 2.) that some of the programs that are being supported are direct service providers for child-based services.

Director Jensen stated it would benefit both. 1.) We need to get stable families good jobs and that is in line with the Governor's vision for economic development and keeping connected with these industries is important as these are middle class jobs; and 2.) We need to make sure these kids are career ready or college ready by the end of high school. There is a number of programs that really add to the experience of young people going through school such as the summer youth program.

Commissioner Wagner stated that early childhood has workforce needs and getting those kinds of experiences and inquired as to whether programs of the child service sector were included in these WIOA programs.

Director Jensen stated yes, it can be included. Director Jensen turned the meeting over to Sarah Blusiewicz to give her presentation on the WIOA Plan.

Sarah Blusiewicz stated that the State WIOA Plan encompasses several programs including six core programs that the State is required to incorporate:

- Dislocated Worker Program for those unemployed or who have lost their job
- Adult (18+)
- Youth
- Wagner Peyser, a basic job service program that the federal government gives the state money to run such as job banks, career fairs, resume building, etc.
- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
- Vocational Rehabilitation

In addition to the Core Programs that are required as part of the planning process, DLT has also included additional Elected Programs as follows:

- Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Unemployment Insurance
- Senior Community Service Employment Program

Sarah stated that in addition to having the different programs that will all have their own technical elements in the plan, there is an overarching strategic vision for the State, and the strategic vision for our State includes three primary principles:

- Implementing a demand-driven sector-based strategy to aggregate economic opportunities by employers and their intermediaries.

In Rhode Island we are taking a position that it is very difficult to develop a workforce development program, if we don't know in fact where job and opportunities are and what we are aligning our services to. This is highlighted by DLT's Real Jobs RI and building the capacity around these intermediaries so we can get them off the ground working and get a better handle on where our future jobs are going to be and what is the overall growth of our economy going to look like.

- Implementing a career pathway strategy to aggregate the individual capacities of the labor supply.

In addition to servicing the needs of our employers and businessmen, we also know that we need to meet the needs of the individual job seekers. This strategy would complement the work of the demand-driven strategy so we could then move people and access the resources necessary to get them the skills, training, education, vocational rehabilitation services, and the other social services that they need to become competitive in the marketplace and succeed in those endeavors.

- Develop an effective performance measurement strategy to track labor market interactions beyond federal reporting requirements.

The current measures are output based and very limited in what they measure and the story that they tell which have failed to give us a good understanding of whether our programs are effective, are the interventions working and what the success is of the individuals that they move through several programs at once. Rhode Island would like to take a stronger stance on performance measurement and understand that it is more about the story behind the person getting the job: where did they come from, what did they overcome, what is the job, is the job related back to training received and what is their overall success once they have that job.

Sarah continued her presentation with the overview of the Program Appropriations:

- WIOA – approximately \$4.1 million for Youth Services per year.
- Job Development Fund – which comes out of employer tax revenue has approximately \$2.4 million for youth programs per year.
- Tech Hire – DLT is currently applying for a \$4 million grant related to connecting youth and older youth into the tech center.
- Real Jobs RI – approximately \$4.4 million awarded in the current round of grants

Sara discussed the WIOA Title I Core Partner Programs, the workforce development side of WIOA, for three categories of clients:

- Adults (18 years of age and older)
- Dislocated Workers
- Youth (14-24 years of age)

Sarah stated that they are trying to capture a wide pool of youth who can be served with the WIOA funding and programs. The Youth Programs have two sets of eligible youth:

In School Youth (with the following criteria)

- 14-21 years old
- Attending school
- Low income
- At least one of the following:
 - Basic skills deficient
 - An offender
 - Homeless, runaway, in or aged out of foster care, in out-of-home placement
 - Pregnant/parenting
 - Individual with a disability
 - Requiring additional assistance to complete an education program or secure/hold employment

Out-of-School Youth (with the following criteria)

- 16-24 years old
- Not attending school
- At least one of the following:

- A school dropout
- Did not attend most recent quarter of school (within the age of compulsory attendance)
- Low income high school graduate or GED recipient who is basic skills deficient or an English language learner
- Subject to the juvenile or adult justice system
- Homeless, runaway, in or aged out of foster care, in out-of-home placement
- Pregnant/Parenting
- Individual with a disability
- A low income individual requiring additional assistance to complete an education program or secure/hold employment

Dr. Alexander Scott inquired as to whether there was flexibility if there were a 14-15 year old that fell into the out-of-school youth category.

Sarah stated that the eligibility criteria is in the statute, however, if they are 14-15 out-of-school there are most likely programs that may complement that they could be served.

Commissioner Wagner stated that students are in compulsory education age until the age of 16, so it would be illegal for a 14-15 year old student to be out of school. Commissioner Wagner added that between the ages of 16-18, they have to be in school, but they can be in an alternate program approved by the Superintendent. Commissioner Wagner asked whether there was a possibility of overlap between this funding and the alternate programs that schools might send the kids to.

Sarah stated yes, that would be the goal. Sarah continued to discuss the WIOA funding priority, stating that they want to leverage the funding that comes through the different funding streams to complement existing programs, such as the education programs, alternative learning plans, etc. WIOA sets up certain eligibilities in statute, but then allows some discretion around defining further policies. DLT's position is to try to create policies that are the most flexible to encourage the most people to benefit from these programs and services.

Sarah discussed the breakdown of the funding received. \$4.1 million is the total in WIOA funding for Youth Activities and is disbursed in several different categories:

- Workforce Partnership of Greater RI – approximately \$2.4 million
- Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston – approximately \$1.28 million
- Department of Labor & Training – approximately \$0.42 million

The funding pays for the following activities in two categories Statewide and Local:

Required – Statewide Activities

- Conducting evaluations
- Disseminating the list of eligible providers
- Managing the MIS system
- Carrying out monitoring
- Assisting local areas

Allowable – Statewide Activities

- Research related to meeting the needs of youth
- Support alternative programs to help youth complete secondary education and their career pathway
- Support career services provided by the one-stop delivery system
- Support financial literacy

Sarah stated that the bulk of the Youth Program is housed at the local level, and the local requirements include the true action items and services, so all of the activities that we think of as being on the ground serving youth are concentrated in the local requirements:

Local Activities

- Perform assessments
- Develop service strategies for each youth
- Provide –
 - Activities leading to secondary or post-secondary credential
 - Preparation for post-secondary education/training
 - Strong linkage between academic instruction and occupational training
 - Employment preparation
 - Connections to employers
- Implement pay-for-performance contracts (at local board discretion)

Elements of Program Design

- Tutoring/study skills/dropout prevention and recovery
- Alternative secondary school services
- Paid or unpaid work experiences
- Occupational skills training
- Contextual learning
- Leadership development opportunities
- Supportive services
- Adult mentoring
- Counseling (which may include drug abuse counseling)
- Financial literacy education, entrepreneurial skills training

Sarah added that there are other WIOA activities that can also help supplement or complement the Title I Youth Program which include:

- WIOA Title II – Adult Education and Literacy Program, for instance an out-of-school youth at least 16 under the Title I category, may also be pursuing adult education services under Title II.
- Job Corps – for eligible youth between age 16-21
- YouthBuild Program – for eligible youth between 16-24
- Adult WIOA Programs – for youth over the age of 18 who may also qualify for services as an adult

Sarah added that the sister program to the Youth Program are the Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, where a youth who is out of school can be co-enrolled as an adult worker and a youth. The benefit from this, is that the adult funding is what allows training resources for their job placement in addition to having access to the available youth services.

Commissioner Purcell inquired as to how many people are involved in these, what kind of programs there are, where the programs are located.

Sarah stated that Job Corps is a residential program that provides skill, job training and placements; Youth Build is a program more along the lines of pre-apprenticeship, it's non-residential and not quite as intense as the Job Corps program.

Director Jensen elaborated on the Exeter Job Corps Academy, stating that it is a 90 day residential program for students, and added that it is a very under-utilized resource and they would like to be more utilized.

Sarah continued her presentation on Statewide Investments and added that the Governor's Workforce Board budget for FY'17 includes a total of \$2.4 million in Job Development Funds to support the following youth workforce development activities:

- Summer Youth Employment: \$1.5 million
- Youth Works411 Centers: \$500,000
- New youth initiatives: \$400,000 (*subsidized work experiences for CTE students and occupational skills training for out-of-school youth*)

Sarah opened the floor to questions or comments.

Commissioner Wagner asked in regard to the 16-18 year old student who may have disengaged from their traditional high school course of study, but are in an alternate academic learning program, whether the alternate academic program and the workforce skills program come together under the same service provider, perhaps funded by the same source or two different sources of funding or is that just the ideal and they are considered as separate service providers where kids will need to navigate those two different tracks.

Sarah stated that she believes there are some that could provide both, however, there may be instances where a student is working on achieving their GED but they want to go into a Real Jobs partnership and start their training simultaneously, they might be separate. However, if there is workforce training that is occurring as part of their alternative learning program as they are achieving that credential, then it could be the same. Sarah stated that the Youth Centers located throughout the state are the primary contacts to assist the kids in navigating. The counselors at the local youth centers are also connected with the schools to reach out to the kids before they disengage and fall into a gap of where they are not in the education system but are not at the youth center yet. Sarah stated that there is room for improvement on how we capture and connect with the disconnected youth.

Commissioner Wagner stated that at some level, even though these great programs exist, we don't want students to leave their high schools before graduating to get jobs.

Sarah stated that this is where the in-school youth resources come to play, if you can connect an in-school youth who is attending a CTE program and that CTE program can translate into a Real Jobs RI partnership once they graduate, it gives them more incentive to stay in school and on that track. We'd like to explore how we connect the workforce activities to the existing education activities in a way that is seamless for that student to transfer from the education program into the workforce program.

Director McDonald stated that she has thousands of kids who have trouble with education stability, and asked if they would get any preference in these programs. Because the children are very transient they would never get to a youth center due to moving two or three times, would DCYF have an opportunity to create a program or youth center at DCYF. Director McDonald also inquired as to whether the departments have been surveyed to see what's out there. DCYF has a program called Harvest Kitchen that seems like would fit within the WIOA programming, but wants to make sure that whatever DCYF is already doing is either mapping to funding that's available that we have not tapped or could be built upon.

Director Jensen stated that this is plan is a collaborative effort and we need to work together to be sure all the agencies are included in the plan.

Commissioner Purcell informed Director Jensen that he would like anyone who offers post high school training to connect with his office, because they should be sanctified by the Office of Post-Secondary Education. It ensures a better product outcome and can provide a more base level of fidelity and implementation that the programs should have.

Commissioner Wagner added that the programs tend to be oriented either by the originating requirements or by the funding source which is the exact opposite of how you would organize it, if it were organized by the user of the experiences. Each agency seems to have a piece of it and in the meantime there are 16-24 year olds who are trying to get on track.

Director Jensen added that one of the biggest challenges that they will be working on is communication. We'd like to develop an umbrella system to give people appropriate information when they walk into a one-stop center, youth center, libraries or school district office.

Commissioner Purcell asked Director Jensen if it would be the Skills Cabinet that would coordinate the WIOA plan or if would be another entity.

Director Jensen stated that when the Skills Cabinet is established it will do part of it, but what the Children's Cabinet is doing is of vital importance to the effort as well because there is the connections with DCYF, Health and Human Services, and the cabinet as a whole needs to figure out how to solve the problem not necessarily just manage our silos.

Director McDonald stated that the one-stops that grew out of regulatory and legislative requirements and we are now looking to adapt it to the actual needs and then to match funding to the needs. Now we have these funds that we need to line up within their constraints and then where they don't have opportunity, we look for other ways to fund them and design the program to their needs and to meet all the requirements.

Dr. Alexander Scott inquired about the MIS system in terms of required statewide activities. Is that a mechanism that allows us to better coordinate or is that a different system?

Sarah stated that the MIS system that DLT and the One-Stop operators use is where all of the workforce data lives, however, the challenge that they run up against is that system is large and has many programs that run out of that system, it does not connect to the education system or the DHS system. For example, if there is a client that is receiving TANF it doesn't alert DLT that they are on TANF, the department would never know that connection exists. These are the types of things where the systems are large but they operate independent from each other.

Director McDonald inquired if there was a plan to have an inter-agency work team from each agency working with DLT on the WIOA plan to coordinate all this information.

Director Jensen stated that the first step is to get the plan submitted which is due April 1st, and then create a work team to include all of the stakeholders.

Commissioner Wagner asked the public if they had any questions or comments in regard to the WIOA presentation.

Rebecca Boss from BHDDH stated that there is a Healthy Transition Grant that is focused on providing early intervention and identification of individuals with behavioral health issues in the transition age group. That is exactly the kind of coordination we are talking about, which is why we co-located one of our programs with one of the One-Stop Youth Centers. It really makes sense to capitalize on the efforts and not duplicate efforts. We have good experience in that level of coordination and suggested that sub-committees be formed out of the Children's Cabinet to work on these particular issues.

Sue Pearlmutter from Rhode Island College, stated that she is one of the evaluators for a project that Foster Forward has operated for the past 4 ½ years called Works Wonders. The program has worked with more than 150 youth and provided an evidence-based intervention that delivers classroom training and then youth work with a job developer to get ready and find a wage earning position. The intervention is about job readiness and

works with youth who have transitioned out of DCYF care and DCYF has been a partner in this project. Sue stated that they worked initially with the youth centers and it became very difficult to manage the amount of classroom training we were doing along with the work that the youth centers were doing. Sue stressed that the real difficulty of working with youth transitioning out of DCYF care is that these youth often do not have the most basic of job readiness preparation. So when talking about training youth for high demand jobs, please keep in mind and understand where these youth are, even though they may have a high school diploma, the trauma that they have experienced in their lives may mean they are not ready to learn, to be on time or to come in with what you would expect of a youth who was ready to be employed. This is not going to be an easy challenge, but the amount of work that Foster Forward has put into this project, has meant keeping in constant contact with youth for a year beyond their stay in the job readiness program.

Lisa Guillette from Foster Forward added that the program is funded by a \$2 million grant over a five year period through ACF. Lisa stated that they tried to get money to continue the work of the program beyond the life of the grant and were one of 22 finalist of over 90 applicants in the country, through the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) Social Innovation Leap Fund Grant, however, they were not selected. AECF were looking specifically to implement the Jobs for America's Graduates Model (JAG). Lisa stated that Foster Forward is still interested in continuing to pursue a component of the JAG Model with some locally identified funding. When looking at our data, 46 percent of the kids who have experienced foster care within 45 days of their 17th birthday, do not have a diploma or GED by age 19 in Rhode Island. The added opportunity would be to bring GED or credit recovery and pair that, and the goal in LEAP was to work with Ocean Tides who can work specifically with the LEA's to do that. We will take what we have learned and use that in upcoming competitive opportunities in Rhode Island. Lisa added that what was exciting during the life of Works Wonders program, these kids needed that first experience and need a job experience in a safe way, so they were able to obtain funding through the Governor's Workforce Board/Real Jobs RI and found 24 employers locally and cultivated relationships with them. They took the young people on as internship placements and Foster Forward used the funds to stipend their time so they were motivated to go, and many of the employers elected to keep them on afterwards. Lisa stated that one of the big opportunities here is that the state do some competitive procurement, to really think about the strategic alignment and reflect that back out to the community.

Brother Michael Reis of Tides Family Services stated they get a lot of kids in their youth transition program and there are many programs that the kids don't qualify for due to a variety of rules or requirements that ultimately exclude them, and they wind up creating a crime that puts them in the ACI. Brother Reis stated it is important to think about lifting these rules and requirements to get these kids in the programs so they don't get rejected and they ultimately get a job.

Courtney Hawkins, Executive Director of Providence Talks, asked if they were going to prioritize the creation of contextualized GED programs for disconnected youth where they can earn a GED and a credential at the same time.

Director Jensen stated that the WIOA plan does not get that prescriptive, but it lays the foundation to do so. Director Jensen is hoping to seed these things into the Real Jobs RI partnerships, because if you can do a very good job on contextualization and timing and you can get people into a job right after their GED graduation.

Courtney Hawkins stated that if there was a way to craft the competition so that there is priority for providers who are working with education and you have GED instructor and the job readiness instructor in the classroom together, you're not mandating the model, but you are saying that we know that's the best practice. When you see a kid who earns his GED and walks out the door with his EMT certification, for example, that kid is so much more likely to be on a career path at that moment, than the kid who just has the GED.

Commissioner Wagner added that we are in the perfect time for this because they are in the process of call for proposals for the next cycle of these types of programs. Commissioner Wagner thanked Sarah for her presentation and thanked the public for their comments. Commissioner Wagner turned the floor to Dacia Read to give an update on the Data Dashboards.

❖ Data Dashboards

Dacia reported that the Cabinet had collected several potential data dashboard indicators through the strategic planning process and committed to narrowing down to a share set of population-level indicators. The indicators suggested in relation to the Cabinet's two final outcome areas are:

- Socially, Civically, Culturally Engaged; and
- Supported by Stable Families and Communities

As we scaffold cross-agency activities, we may be driven by this type of data, to set benchmark targets for our work. For the dashboards, we are looking for population-level indicators that provide sufficient data power and proxy power that can be disaggregated by certain social variables such as gender, race, sexual orientation, age, and geographic area to guide the Cabinet's progress toward desired outcomes statewide over the next five years.

Dacia informed the Cabinet and the members of the public that she will be hosting a Community Conversation to further discuss the Data Dashboards, on April 12th from 3:30 – 5:30 at the Department of Administration, Conference Room A. Dacia stated that she will provide the feedback from that meeting at the next Children's Cabinet meeting.

Dacia continued her report on the Socially, Civically, and Culturally Engaged data dashboard. The following potential indicators identified came from DCYF, RIDE, DLT, RI Kids Count and the DataSpark DataHub.

- # of youth at RI Training School (2015 : 97)
- # of youth on probation (2015 : 550)
- Re-incarceration rate to Youth Detention (2015 : 33.4%)
- # of students enrolled in dual language programs (2016 : ~600)
- % of eligible youth voting in elections (2014 : ~20%)
- Rate utilization of DLT youth centers
- % of youth accessing summer employment
- % of youth engaged in out-of-school time programming

These are not at the population level that we want them to be, but had come up in our first iteration. Dacia encouraged the community partners to come to the meeting on April 12th and bring their ideas, suggestions and feedback.

Dacia continued her report on the Supported by Stable Families and Communities data dashboard. Dacia stated that the following indicators identified in relation to our only desired outcome that is not squarely child-specific. Rather it is a family-specific outcome, and it provides an opportunity to look at indicators that demonstrate the relative stability of parents and families:

- % of households with incomes below Federal poverty threshold (2015 : 19.8%)
- % of children with no parent in the labor force (2013 : 9%)
- % of renters spending 30%+ of household income on rent (2013 : 52%)
- # of children in families receiving cash assistance (2015 : 8,156)
- # of children receiving SNAP benefits (2015 : 59,701)
- % of eligible parents and children accessing RIWorks opportunities (2015 : 41%)
- # of eligible families enrolled in CCAP (2014 : 8,215)
- # of approved claims for Temporary Caregivers Insurance for new child (2014 : 3,870)
- % recent graduates from URI, RIC and CCRI entering state and national workforce
- % of children who are homeless

Dacia stated that the Cabinet has resources available to us that may not be agency-driven data, such as the work that DataSpark does with the DataHub by linking data in a longitudinal way, Kids Count does analysis through the

Factbook; and stated that if the partners had some suggestions about alternative sources that they would like to contribute, please bring that information forward to the meeting on April 12th.

Dr. Alexander Scott suggested incorporating a behavioral health component to each of the dashboards discussed. We would have to find one that has the data markers and the proxy powers that Dacia mentioned. There has been discussion in strengthening behavioral health coordination in the system, and transitioning from DCYF to BHDDH, as well as discussions about the overdose epidemic in terms of promoting stable families which could also be incorporated into the dashboards.

Dr. Hollingshead added that it's been shown here in the state and nationally that residential mobility is a powerful predictor of all kinds of problems, and can be used as a good indicator. Dr. Hollingshead stated that KidsNet already measures this data.

Brother Michael Reis discussed legislation that was passed for the DCYF and Family Court when a youngster with mental health issues who turn 18 to come up with a treatment plan, once that is approved the youngster is eligible for care until his 26th birthday. Brother Reis stated that this population is covered by Medicaid and wanted to know if we are including this population in the system that we are looking at.

Director McDonald stated she was not sure about the implementation of it and she will follow up with Family Court to get more information.

Commissioner Purcell added that in regard to the measures for the transition part as it relates to foster children. Commissioner stated that there are a lot of people who do not know that state aide exists for foster children to go to college, but he would like to have a calculated percentage of how many of them actually do use state aide.

Director McDonald stated that there are no metrics on that as of yet, but DCYF is in the process of reviewing that issue with the Department of Human Services.

Brenda Amodei of BHDDH stated in regard to the last bullet, "percent of children who are homeless", could a proxy be considered to add – "not stably housed". Because what they are finding in their small pilot is that about a third are showing up, not homeless, because they don't meet the federal definition of homelessness or they are not registered in that information system, but they don't have a stable place to live and is impacting their mental health treatment and employability, etc. Many of them stay with friends.

Sue Pearlmutter questioned whether the indicator called "Stable" that has so many connotations, has been really defined as what we mean by Stable.

Dacia stated that is a big reason why we are looking for data points that we can look for trends over time, so even if we don't have a point in time definition if we can some of the trends over time that can help us define that even more as we start doing some closer surveillance.

Commissioner Wagner stated that before going to public comment, he would like the Cabinet to review and approve the minutes from the February 29th meeting.

❖ Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Wagner asked if there were any comments or amendments to be made to the minutes. There were none. Commissioner Wagner called for a motion to approve the minutes. Director Jensen made a motion to approve, Director McDonald made a second motion. All were in favor, 0 opposed. Motion passed and minutes were adopted.

❖ **Public Comment**

Commissioner Wagner asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Anne Walsh, youth programs manager for the Workforce Solutions of Providence-Cranston for youth programs, a local workforce investment board, wanted to inform the Cabinet that they are connected to programs discussed today and do make connections at the local level for instance, they have funded the Harvest Kitchen program for five years in a row, they also funded programs for Foster Forward and Tides Family Services.

Eric Beane asked Anne if her organization has established partnerships with the state agencies who might be helpful in establishing a pipeline of people to plug into the programs who might benefit the most from the programs. DCYF, RIDE and DHS are a just a few who may be aware of people who are at risk of bad outcomes and benefit greatly from the programs.

Anne Walsh stated that several years ago there was an initiative from the federal government called Shared Youth Vision which was a committee of all of the state agencies that provided services to youth as well as the two local workforce board youth managers. That committee is where the youth system grew out of, however, they weren't able to continue it without funding. Anne stated that they have kept some of those connections and have worked with DCYF in streamlining and creating forms enabling them override all of the other information they need to collect. Anne stated they could do more, especially if that committee came together again.

❖ **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Wagner asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none. Commissioner Wagner stated the next Children's Cabinet meeting will be held on Monday, April 25th. Commissioner Wagner thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. Director Jensen made a motion to adjourn, Director McDonald seconded. All were in favor, 0 opposed. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.