

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1744

By: Peters

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6
7 An Act relating to public health and safety; creating
8 the Children's Cabinet; stating purpose; providing
9 for membership; providing for chair; providing for
10 vice-chair; stating duties; requiring four meetings
11 per year; specifying administrative support;
12 authorizing the use of certain resources; providing
13 for a Youth Advisory Alliance; stating duties;
14 providing for membership; providing for certain
15 liaison; providing for codification; providing an
16 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 10.4a of Title 74, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. There is created the Children's Cabinet to develop,
22 recommend, and implement coordinated state policies to improve the
23 health and welfare of children and families.

24 B. The Children's Cabinet shall be composed of fifteen (15)
members:

1. The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as the chair of the
Children's Cabinet;

- 1 2. The Director of the Department of Human Services;
- 2 3. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs;
- 3 4. The State Commissioner of Health;
- 4 5. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- 5 Services;
- 6 6. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction;
- 7 7. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and
- 8 Youth;
- 9 8. The Commissioner of Labor;
- 10 9. The State Treasurer;
- 11 10. The Commissioner of Public Safety;
- 12 11. The Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission;
- 13 12. The Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation
- 14 Services;
- 15 13. The Commissioner of Insurance;
- 16 14. The Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority;
- 17 and
- 18 15. The executive director of a child advocacy organization in
- 19 the state, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, who shall
- 20 serve as vice-chair of the Children's Cabinet.

21 C. The Children's Cabinet shall:

- 22 1. Promote a stable, safe, and healthy environment for children
- 23 and families;
- 24

1 2. Provide a regular forum for state agencies to meet and
2 develop coordinated policy recommendations; and

3 3. Develop, no later than July 1, 2010, a strategic plan that
4 shall provide a long-term children's policy for the state. The plan
5 shall:

6 a. identify the major issues facing children and youth
7 under the age of twenty-one (21) years in the State of
8 Oklahoma,

9 b. outline potential long-term strategies and goals that
10 the State of Oklahoma can implement to address the
11 issues and improve the overall quality of life for
12 Oklahoma children,

13 c. provide recommendations for policies that will
14 maximize the successes and opportunities for Oklahoma
15 children in order to become self-sufficient and
16 productive adults. Issue areas may include academics,
17 health and well-being, safety, job training, and job
18 access,

19 d. provide recommendations for the design of a
20 coordinated system to maximize outcomes among children
21 and youth under age twenty-one (21) years,
22 particularly those living in disadvantaged situations,
23
24

- 1 e. establish priorities and strategies for the
2 coordinated delivery of state interagency services for
3 children and families,
4 f. provide recommendations on streamlining the delivery
5 of services to children, eliminating duplication of
6 costs and services in existing agencies,
7 g. provide measurable outcomes for each department,
8 agency, and program in this state that are consistent
9 with the plan, and
10 h. be coordinated with any other approved state plans
11 relating to services for children and families.

12 D. The Children's Cabinet shall meet at least four times per
13 year.

14 E. Staff support for the Children's Cabinet shall be provided
15 by the Office of Planning and Coordination in the Oklahoma
16 Commission on Children and Youth.

17 F. The Children's Cabinet may make use of any resources, both
18 public and private, that will provide information and analysis that
19 assists in executing its statutory mission.

20 G. The Children's Cabinet is authorized to solicit, receive,
21 and pool funds from the federal government, any political
22 subdivision of the state, or any individual, foundation, or
23 corporation, and may expend those funds for purposes that are
24 consistent with this section.

1 H. 1. The Youth Advisory Alliance is hereby established.

2 2. The Youth Advisory Alliance shall be composed of youth ages
3 fourteen (14) to twenty-one (21) years. Each member of the Oklahoma
4 Legislature may select one youth from the district of the member to
5 serve on the Youth Advisory Alliance.

6 3. The Youth Advisory Alliance will meet at least twice a year
7 in order to:

- 8 a. identify and examine issues of importance to youth,
- 9 b. identify recommendations on potential solutions to
10 issues facing youth, and
- 11 c. provide a report to the Children's Cabinet on the
12 issues and recommendations determined to be of
13 importance to the Alliance.

14 I. Each member of the Children's Cabinet shall name an employee
15 to serve as a liaison to ensure coordination and communication among
16 agencies and to address cross-jurisdictional issues in an efficient,
17 effective, and expeditious manner.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

19 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
20 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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24 52-1-5971 SAB 01/14/09