

Children's Cabinet

January 26, 2025



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vote on October Minutes
- DCYF Strategic Plan
- 2025 Children's Cabinet Discussion
- Public Comment
- Adjournment



SETTING P.A.C.E. FOR RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Advancing Progress, Embracing Our Mission, and Realizing Our Vision

Presentation Children's Cabinet

January 27, 2025





Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Reimagining our Goals

**RHODE
ISLAND**

PACE FRAMEWORK

To develop our strategic plan:

We identified four foundational pillars necessary to achieve positive outcomes for children and families:



PREVENTION
ACCOUNTABILITY
COLLABORATION
ENGAGEMENT

Set **PACE** with DCYF in providing **excellence in service delivery** by investing in the Children, Youth & Families of Rhode Island.

OUR CHILDREN – OUR FAMILIES – OUR COMMUNITIES - OUR COMMITMENT

PACE FRAMEWORK



PREVENTION

Enhance the well-being of children and families by safely decreasing out-of-home removals and reducing the number of children and youth in foster care through investments in prevention services and the development of a strong continuum of care designed to meet the unique needs of families, allowing them to thrive.

PACE FRAMEWORK



ACCOUNTABILITY

Provide excellence in service delivery by establishing accountability across all levels of our system, with a focus on ensuring the safety of children, using a racial justice lens to advance race equity and improve permanency outcomes in our child and family well-being system.

PACE FRAMEWORK



COLLABORATION

Collaborate with community partners to address the needs of children and families in Rhode Island. Through collaboration and a supportive workforce culture that is both well-resourced and well-trained, we can proactively expand family-based placements and decrease reliance on congregate care.

PACE FRAMEWORK



ENGAGEMENT

Engage with youth, families, and caregivers to authentically center their voices throughout the continuum of care and help youth successfully transition from our system, with special attention to marginalized youth.

PACE FRAMEWORK

By emphasizing our foundational pillars of **PREVENTION**, **ACCOUNTABILITY**, **COLLABORATION**, and **ENGAGEMENT**, we intend to:

Safely decrease the number of out-of-home removals

Expand family-based placements, including kinship care, non-relative foster care, and therapeutic foster care

Reduce reliance on in- and out-of-state congregate care.

Provide excellence in service delivery by investing in the Children, Youth & Families of Rhode Island

Revised Mission and Vision

**RHODE
ISLAND**

MISSION AND VISION



MISSION: Build a system of care where **every** child grows up in a safe and loving family environment that supports **the development of strong, resilient families** throughout the state of Rhode Island.

VISION: The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families leads excellence in service delivery by strengthening **PREVENTION**, ensuring **ACCOUNTABILITY**, and respecting the dignity and diversity of every individual and family.

Through **COLLABORATION**, we effectively **ENGAGE** with families and communities, working together to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and youth we serve.

Setting the P.A.C.E



IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY STRATEGIES

- Increase Capacity for Family-Based Care
- Comprehensive Support Services
- Enhanced Community-Based Programs
- Policy and Funding Shifts
- Collaboration with Stakeholders
- Creation of Administrative Barriers
- Implementation of a Child and Family Team Meeting Model
- Consultant to assist with Transforming Children's Behavioral Health
- Utilization of Therapeutic Foster Care Homes
- Creative Step-Down Supports and Incentives
- **Quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation**





P.A.C.E
Questions & Answers



Children's Cabinet Survey Results Review

Stakeholder feedback for the
future of the Children's Cabinet in
2025.

**RHODE
ISLAND**

RI Children's Cabinet 2025 Community Survey Results

Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the following aspects of the Cabinet's functionality.

● Very Dissatisfied ● Dissatisfied ● Neutral ● Satisfied ● Extremely Satisfied

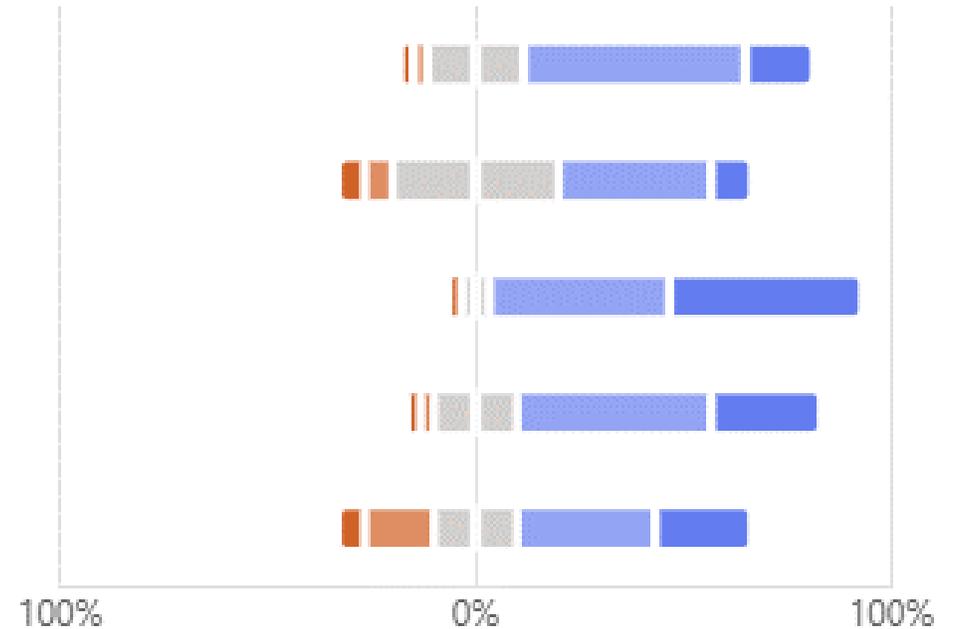
Meeting Cadence (Monthly)

Meeting Location (DOA)

Meeting Format (in-person with Zoom option)

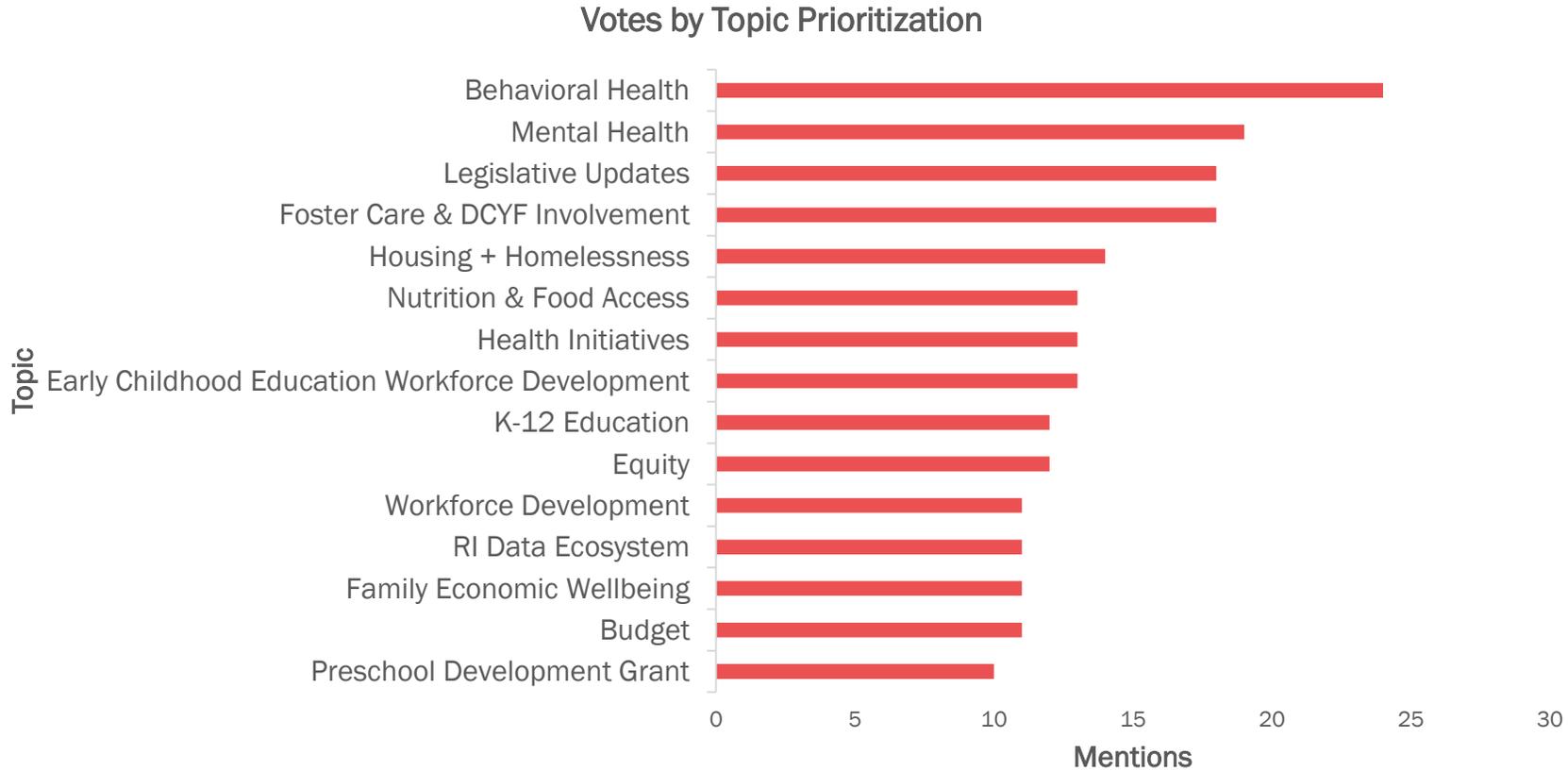
Meeting length (one hour)

Meeting topics (varied, typically presentations from agencies)



Topics to be Prioritized in 2025

Respondents were asked what topics impacting children, families and Rhode Island they would like to see on the Children’s Cabinet agenda for 2025.



Perceived Strengths Themes

Respondents were asked to provide written feedback about their perceived strengths of the Children’s Cabinet.

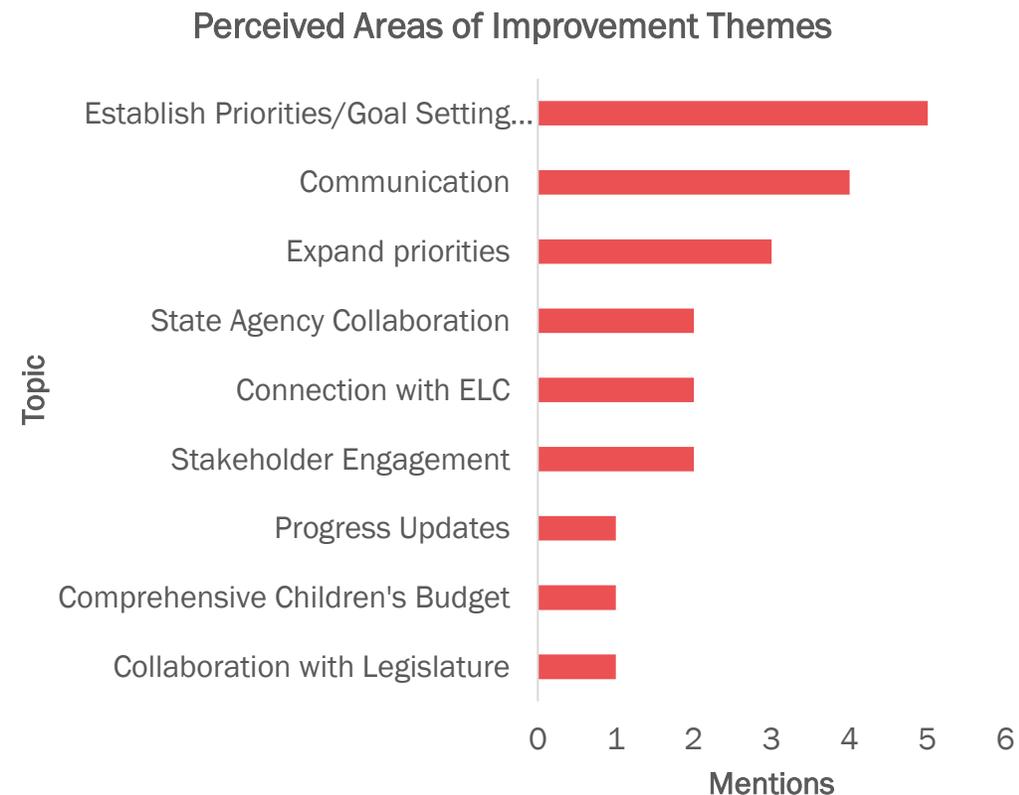
- “Excellent central hub for state agency collaboration and partnership with community partners.”
- “State policy and agency leaders meeting regularly to discuss important parts of a child's life, health, education, housing, etc. This is an important collection of people and agendas.”
- “The variety of agencies and public voices coming together to work together in support of children, families, and their communities.”
- “Broad representation of stake holders, good place for updates and input, well organized.”
- “Well organized and thoughtful topics and presentations.”
- “Great that all agencies are together. Often get useful data out of the meetings.”



Perceived Areas of Improvement Themes

Respondents were asked to provide written feedback about their perceived areas of improvement.

- “Recommend that the Cabinet pick 4 consistent, cross-departmental topics with specific goals they are working on... Topics I would pick are 1) Early Learning and Development/School Readiness, 2) Mental Health/Behavioral Health of children and families, 3) Safe and Healthy housing of families and children, 4) Food and nutrition - SNAP, WIC, CACFP, School Meals, Summer Meals.”
- “It would be great to have a comprehensive children's budget -- what is state actually spending on children in all the areas: children's behavioral health especially.”
- “More action focused. I liked the suggestion to have annual goals and structure content/work around those goals. Could have subcommittees work between sessions on goals, outcomes, new initiatives to address systemic level issues collaboratively.”
- “Needs to be more action oriented and reporting actualization towards progress on the issues discussed. There have been multiple presentations on crises that are ongoing and little revisit to action and who’s responsible for what.”
- “Wondering about how the Early Learning Council can be more of a presence with this.”



Additional Comments

Respondents were asked to provide any additional comments not addressed in other sections of the survey.

Make sure the Children's Cabinet is broader and encompasses all ages of children (Prenatal to age 18). Have more of the detailed discussions and recommendations generated at the Early Learning Council level. Are there other cross-departmental advisory committees that can also report into the Children's Cabinet and generate more specific recommendations - aligned to the Children's Cabinet goals.

This is a good forum to provide information and increase awareness of state initiatives.

There needs to be more family voices (voices with lived experiences), Community Health Workers, Peers, hospital liaison, schoolteachers include in the Children's Cabinet.

I appreciate the request for feedback and am looking forward to making progress in 2025 to help infants, young children, and families in RI thrive!

More consistent focus on family homelessness may be needed.

This would be a great table to discuss improvements and better coordination of system -- whether for children's behavioral health, children's housing, or the early care and education system (what is happening with the early childhood governance pieces for instance)?

Focus on goals, achievements, and outcomes.

RI Children's Cabinet 2025 Discussion

We wanted to take a few minutes and discuss as a group some things the Cabinet should prioritize putting on the agenda as we plan out the upcoming year.

- Are you satisfied with the survey process and results presentation? Is there anything you would have liked to discuss that hasn't been?
- Are there agenda items you haven't seen recently and would like to talk about?
- Are their specific topics based on the state of the nation that this group should talk about more broadly?
- Are there specific guest speakers or community members you would like to see here, providing information to the group on the work they do?
- Would you like to see a different format? Less presentation, more discussion?