

# Maine Governor's Children's Cabinet

Chair, First Lady Karen Baldacci



# Governor's Children's Cabinet

## History

### An Overview

- Created by Former Governor Angus King and First Lady Mary Herman in 1996 as a way to coordinate on policies and programs for children and youth
- First Chaired by Commissioner Joseph Lehman, DOC from 1997-1999
- Legislative Task Force recommended formalizing in statute in 2000
- Chaired by Commissioner Duke Albanese, DOE from 1999-2003

# 2006 Children's Cabinet

- First Lady Karen Baldacci, Chair

## Commissioners:

- Susan Gendron, Education
- Brenda Harvey, Health/Human Services
- Anne H. Jordan, Public Safety
- Marty Magnusson, Corrections
- Laura Fortman, Labor
- Governor's Advisors: Patrick Ende, Mike Mahoney, Karla Black,
- Cabinet Staff

# Executive Staff 2006

- Denise Lord/Barry Stoodley, Corrections
- Valerie Seaberg, Education
- Jane Gilbert, Labor
- Janet Richards, Public Safety
- Jim Beougher, DHHS, Child/Family Services

# Senior Staff 2006

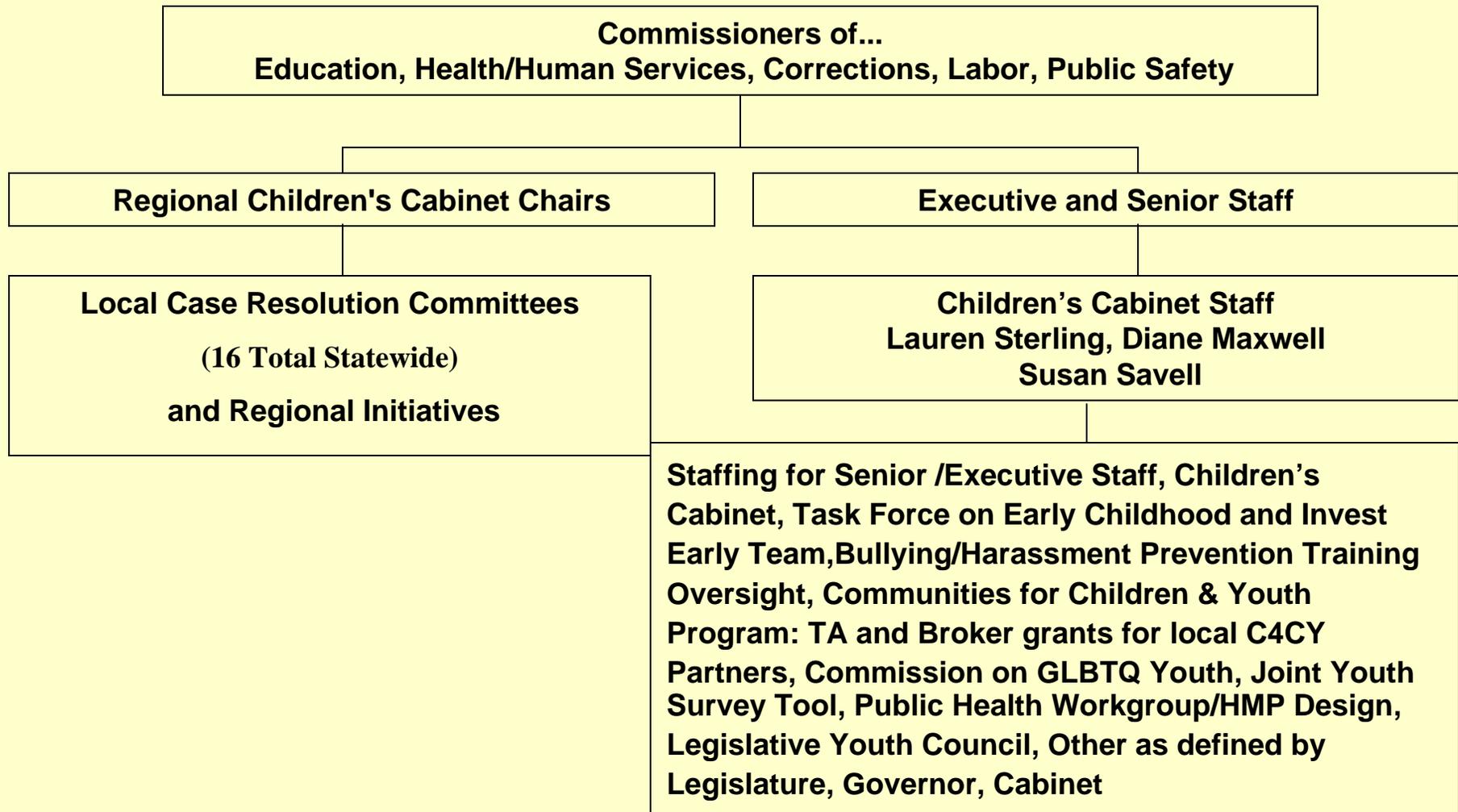
- David Stockford, Education
- Dan Despard, DHHS, Child Protection,
- Dr. Richard Aronson, DHHS, Maternal and Child Health
- Joan Smyrski, DHHS/Children's Behavioral Health
- Susan Savell, Communities for Children/Youth
- Mary Fran Gamage, Labor
- Mary Lucia, Public Safety
- Roxy Hennings, Corrections
- Patti Woolley, DHHS, Early Childhood
- Leslie Rozeff, Muskie Institute
- Susan Savell, Communities for Children/Youth
- Lauren Sterling, Cabinet Staff
- Regional Children's Cabinet Chairs

# Children's Cabinet Staff

- **Lauren Sterling – Staff Support for:**
  - Children's Cabinet, Senior /Executive Staff; Task Force on Early Childhood; 21<sup>st</sup> Century (after school) grant management; Bullying/Harassment Prevention Training Systems; C4CY Program replication and technical assistance
- **Susan Savell – Executive Coordinator:**
  - Communities for Children & Youth Executive Coordinator (Network of 65 Local Coalitions, Resource Development)
- **Diane Maxwell – Administrative Assistant:**
  - Children's Cabinet, Communities for Children & Youth

# Maine Governor's Children's Cabinet

**Chair, First Lady Karen M. Baldacci**



# Children's Cabinet Public Value:

- Coordinates approaches to the delivery of services;
- Operationalize the Governor's commitment to creating better outcomes for children and youth in Maine.
- Establishes administrative priorities across departments and agencies/bureaus;
- Leverages resources both human (staff) and financial, that maximizes funding via collaborative grants and best use of federal funding streams, as mandates allow;

# Mission

- To provide cross-agency coordination, high-level leadership, program and policy development with a common mission --- *that will measurably improve the well being of Maine's children, youth, and families through evidence-based practices and strength-base approaches to positive child and youth development*

# BROAD Vision

All Maine Children and Youth are...

- Healthy
- Safe
- Well-educated
- Productive

# Vision

**Based upon the belief that *children's needs are best met within the context of relationships in the family and community*, our vision for children is focused in three parts...**

# Vision

*The value we place on children and youth...*

- **Children respected, safe and nurtured in their communities;**
- **Children succeeding in school and schools succeeding for children; and**
- **Youth prepared to enter the work force.**

# Vision

*The value we place on families...*

- **Families have the opportunity for family-sustaining and livable work and play;**
- **Families recognizing the rewards and responsibilities of raising children; and**
- **Families living safe and healthy lives.**

# Vision

*The value we place on communities...*

- **Communities capable of meeting the needs of children and families in all of their diversity;**
- **Communities creating collaborative partnerships;**
- **Communities promoting and modeling clear standards of behavior; and**
- **Communities keeping children and families at the heart of all decisions.**

# Priorities

- *Early Childhood* – with the goal to create coordinated and humane systems and policies at the state and local level and to ensure quality early childhood services to **all young children**.
- *Youth in Transition*, expand, coordinate and strengthen supports for youth ages 14-24, with the goal to ensure that EVERY youth and young adult, especially those with few assets and high risk factors such as substance abuse, mental health issues, academic failure, or marginalized in any way, is connected to a permanent home, family, and community through collaborative wrap-a-round planning partnerships between the Children's Cabinet agencies, families, schools, and communities.

# Priorities Cont'd

- ***Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and Resiliency***, which links adverse experiences in childhood - such as abuse, alcoholism in the family, mental illness, etc. - to adverse health outcomes as the child becomes an adult. In understanding the research behind ACE, the Children's Cabinet seeks to foster conditions that: 1) Prevent, to the extent possible, such trauma in childhood; 2) Minimize the impact of traumatic experiences and events; and 3) Strengthen the resiliency of children, families, and communities in dealing with trauma.

# Cross-Systems Initiatives

## **Early Childhood**

- Task Force on Early Childhood/Early Childhood Systems Initiative (Humane Systems for Early Childhood)
- Promote and Support Universal Home Visiting Services
- Strengthening Families (Child abuse/neglect prevention initiative)
- Communities for Children and Youth  
Americorps\*VISTA Project

# Cross-Systems Initiatives Cont'd

## **ACEs/Resiliency**

- Trauma-Informed System of Care
- Jurisdictional Team Planning
- Communities for Children and Youth:  
Mentoring for Children and Youth Through  
College/Community Partnerships
- Communities for Children and Youth: Asset  
Building Schools and Communities

# Cross-Systems Initiatives Cont'd

## **Youth in Transition**

- Re-Entry Program
- Maine Youth Opportunities Initiative Sustainability Plan
- Keeping Maine's Children Connected
- High Fidelity Wraparound
- Youth Suicide Prevention

# Maine Marks/Measures

- Please see Mock-up Web Page Handout  
*(Note: Final approval of Indicators list is still in process)*
- [www.mainemarks.org](http://www.mainemarks.org)
- Lauren Sterling, Staff, Governor's Children's Cabinet 287-4349
- [Lauren/Sterling@maine.gov](mailto:Lauren/Sterling@maine.gov)