

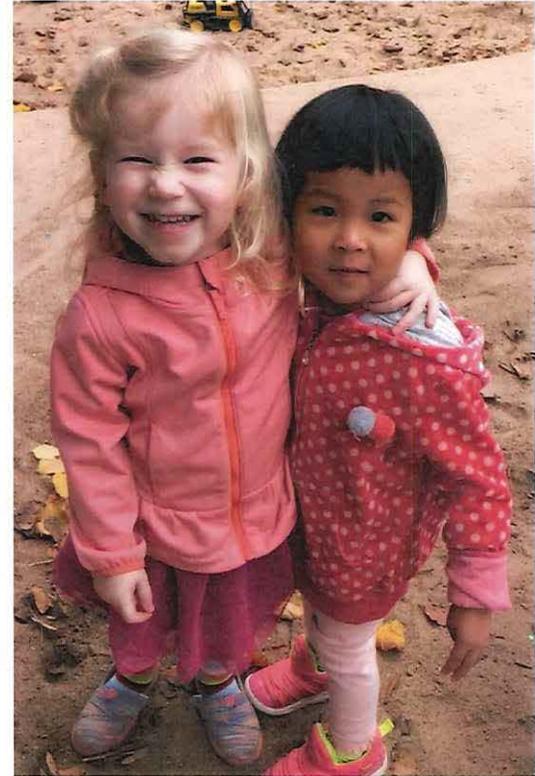


## GOVERNOR MILLS' CHILDREN'S CABINET

Ana Hicks

Senior Policy Analyst and Children's Cabinet Coordinator

[www.maine.gov/future](http://www.maine.gov/future)



## Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

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“There is no higher priority than our children and. . .it is high time we put children’s health and safety first. I will start with one simple step — calling together the Children’s Cabinet for the first time in years, to tackle these issues.”

- Governor Janet T. Mills, Inaugural Speech



## Members of the Children's Cabinet

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Commissioner Lambrew  
Dept of Health & Human Services  
Children's Cabinet Chair



Commissioner Liberty  
Dept of Corrections



Commissioner Makin  
Dept of Education



Commissioner Fortman  
Dept of Labor



Commissioner Sauschuck  
Dept of Public Safety



The Children's Cabinet meets in person once every six weeks.

# Staff Participation in the Children's Cabinet

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**Committed to the success of the Children's Cabinet, the Governor and Commissioners identified high level staff members to dedicate their time and provide expertise to support the on-going work of the Cabinet.**

## **Governor's Office**

Linda Pistner, Deputy Legal Counsel  
Beth Beausang, Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Affairs

## **Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future**

Ana Hicks, Children's Cabinet Coordinator  
Hannah Pingree, Director

## **Department of Corrections**

Colin O'Neil, Associate Commissioner

## **Department of Labor**

Dawn Mealey, Acting Bureau Director, Employment Services  
Libby Stone-Sterling, Director, Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation

## **Department of Health and Human Service**

Todd Landry, Director, Office of Child and Family Services  
Sara Gagne-Holmes, Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner's Office  
Amy Belisle, Chief Child Health Officer, Commissioner's Office  
Dean Bugaj, Policy Writer, Office of MaineCare Services  
Leana Amaez, Manager of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Sheila Nelson, Health Program Manager, MeCDC  
Christine Theriault, Prevention Manager, MeCDC  
Liz Ray, Policy Director, Office of Family Independence

## **Department of Education**

Lee Anne Larson, Early Learning Team Coordinator  
Jaci Holmes, Federal State Legislative Liaison  
Rich Meserve, Director, School and Student Supports  
Mary Herman, Commissioner's Office  
Roy Fowler, State Director, Child Development Services



**Staff meet at least twice per month to coordinate work of the Children's Cabinet.**

## Children's Cabinet Goals

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**The Cabinet developed two clear overarching results that it will strive to reach:**

- **All Maine children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.**
- **All Maine youth enter adulthood healthy, connected to the workforce and education.**



# Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children

## All Maine Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

The Children's Cabinet will implement key strategies to promote the healthy development of all young children in Maine and ensure that all children grow up in healthy, safe and supportive environments. The Cabinet will strive to engage the voice of parents in a culturally and linguistically accessible way as we further develop and implement our strategies.



## Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children: Intermediate Strategies 2020 - 2023

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- Implement the early childhood mental health consultation pilot sites and expand statewide to help parents and programs support the social and emotional development of young children, particularly children with special needs.
- Support opportunities and strategies for increasing wages for early childhood educators.
- Increase access, expand and strengthen early childhood programming at Career and Technical schools.
- Revise the QRIS system to be a five-star system to bring all licensed child care programs into the state's quality rating system.
- Educate families about Child Find and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment in MaineCare to improve access to health and intervention services.
- Expand professional learning opportunities that support inclusive and trauma informed practices in early care and education settings.
- Offer a professional learning series on early childhood education to school administrators, particularly for those with ECE programs.



## Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children Short Term Strategies 2020-2021

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- Streamline, simplify and raise awareness about the eligibility process for the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP).
- Provide mini-grants to child care programs opening new facilities or expanding existing facilities, priority to programs in rural areas.
- Provide through the Child Care Subsidy Program weekly stipends of up to \$100 per infant for all licensed providers participating in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).
- Provide a 10% quality bump under the Child Care Subsidy Program to child care programs on the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) serving infants and toddlers.
- Provide \$200,000 for scholarships through the T.E.A.C.H. early care and education scholarship program operated by the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Provide mini-grants to assist child care programs in moving up the quality rating system (QRIS) .
- Fund start-up grants to expand public pre-K, incentivizing partnerships between schools, Head Start and child care programs.
- Build the infrastructure for an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).



## Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children Long Term Strategies 2020-2025

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- Ensure no wrong door for families to access services, such as SNAP, MaineCare and WIC, and establish a centralized entity around developmental screening and care coordination for early intervention services.
- Ensure access to and utilization of high-quality preventive services for young children and their families.
- Ensure that substance use screening, treatment and support for recovery is available for families with infants and young children.
- Increase professional development and coaching opportunities for family child care and center-based programs.
- Expand to universal public pre-K for all 4 year olds, incentivizing community partnerships and full-day, full-time programming.
- Establish an Early Childhood Integrated Data System to track progress on early childhood goals and to analyze impact of policy decisions.



**Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth:  
All Maine Youth Enter Adulthood Healthy, Connected to the Workforce and/or Education**

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Ensure basic needs of youth and their families are met



Increase prevention services and programming in schools and at the community level



Increase access to needed behavioral health, including substance use disorder, screenings and treatment



## Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth: Short Term Strategies 2020 - 2021

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- Train 3 cohorts of Maine therapists (for a total of 180) in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
- Strengthen children's crisis services to keep youth with their families, starting with a demonstration project in a rural area.
- Disseminate a universally accessible and free Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum for all schools & after school programs.
- Support school-based health centers to provide additional hours for mental and behavioral health services to students.
- Fund Maine Youth Advocates Network to provide restorative practices support, education & technical assistance in schools.
- Increase training and technical assistance for behavioral health organizations on effective screening and identification of suicide prevention for youth living with a substance use disorder.
- Expand implementation of the Zero Suicide Model among health care providers, FQHCs, and behavioral health organizations.



## Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth: Intermediate Strategies 2020 - 2023

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- Improve and align behavioral health screenings across state agencies to ensure early identification and referral to services.
- Increase access for youth to evidence-based behavioral health services, including prevention and early intervention.
- Increase access to youth substance use disorder treatment in primary care practices and school-based health centers.
- Establish a training program for school support staff members to recognize and mitigate the impact of trauma.
- Align and increase the incorporation of restorative practices and restorative justice across state programs for youth.
- Increase programming to support pregnant and parenting teens.
- Provide more opportunities for youth to participate in paid internships or paid work.
- Increase awareness of careers, career pathways and access points to post-secondary education and training programs.



## Children's Cabinet Plan for Youth: Long Term Strategies 2020 - 2025

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- Expand housing options across the continuum of care and entire state.
- Ensure eligible youth and young adults are participating in public programs to increase food security and health coverage.
- Strengthen continuum of children's crisis services.
- Ensure successful and smooth transitions for youth moving from children to adult service systems.
- Ensure systems involved youth can access the services that they need in their communities.



## Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

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# Questions?

Contact:

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Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

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