



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## CHILDREN'S CABINET

### An Inventory of Its Records

#### OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

<b>Agency:</b>	Minnesota. Children's Cabinet.
<b>Series Title:</b>	Records,
<b>Dates:</b>	1991-1995.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Records of two independent bodies, the Children's Cabinet (1992-1995) and the Action for Children Commission (1991-1995).
<b>Quantity:</b>	1.0 cu. ft. (1 box).
<b>Location:</b>	114.K.20.7B

#### HISTORY OF THE CHILDREN'S CABINET

On March 8, 1991, Governor Arne Carlson established the Governor's Action for Children Commission [Executive Order No. 91-7]. Co-chaired by Susan Carlson, Minnesota's First Lady, and Ron James, US West Communications/Minnesota vice-president and chief executive officer, the commission brought together thirty representatives of the state's executive branch and legislature, business community, and children's advocacy groups. Staff members were housed in the state's Planning Agency. The commission's charge was to create a vision for Minnesota's children and families, develop and recommend strategies that would allow all children to reach their potential, recommend measurements to assess yearly progress toward the vision for children, and create and monitor a public dialogue on children's issues. It hosted twelve "Speak Out for Children" meetings throughout the state during 1991 and held a Youth Conference in October 1991, where comments and suggestions were taken from Minnesotans aged twelve to eighteen. At a February 25, 1992 press conference, the commission's report, "Kids Can't Wait: Action for Minnesota's Children," was released to the public. It included thirty-six strategies to improve life for Minnesota's children, youth and families, the most encompassing being the creation of a Children's Cabinet, independent from any state agency. At the press conference, Governor Carlson formally announced the creation of such a Children's Cabinet.

The Action for Children Commission had identified 250 separate programs spread through thirty-three different state agencies and costing \$4.5 billion per year that served Minnesota's children. The charge to the Children's Cabinet was to work with the Commission and the citizens of Minnesota to improve the well-being of children and families in the state through the creation of a flexible system for the comprehensive, unified, and effective administration of

programs and services which would avoid fragmentation and duplication, and facilitate cooperation among state agencies, as well as regional, local and private sectors.

Linda Kohl, Planning Agency Director, upon the request of the Governor, agreed to served as the Children's Cabinet's first chair and the agency continued to provide staffing and administrative support to both the Action for Children Commission and the Children's Cabinet. In 1993, the Legislature officially created [Laws 1993 c224 art4 sec6] and codified [Minn. Stat. 1993 sec4.045] the Children's Cabinet.

In 1995, the Action for Children Commission was officially "sunsetting." Since it had been created by Executive Order, it was ended at the Governor's discretion. Also, with the 1995 creation of the Department of Children, Families and Learning [CFL], the Children's Cabinet as a program function was transferred to the new department, where it remained throughout the Carlson administration. Under the Ventura administration, it is co-chaired by the commissioners of the departments of Human Services and CFL, and is a shared staffing function between those two agencies.

Sources: Minnesota Laws 1993, Minnesota Statutes 1993, and the records of the Children's Cabinet.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS**

Records of two independent bodies, the Action for Children Commission (1991-1995) and the Children's Cabinet (1992-1995). The former, created by Governor Arne Carlson, was charged to create a vision for Minnesota's children and families. Part of that vision was the creation of the Children's Cabinet, a body independent of any state agency, charged with working with the commission to create a flexible system for comprehensive, unified, and effective administration of programs and services relating to children and families throughout the state. Records for each body include minutes, correspondence, subject files, and publications, and mainly document their organization, day to day operations, and studies and reports. Included are the commission's 1992 report, "Kids Can't Wait;" materials on the cabinet's 1993 and 1994 retreats and its children's sub-cabinet (1992-1994); and news clippings about each body.

## **INDEX TERMS**

*These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### **Topics:**

Child welfare--Minnesota.  
Children--Services for--Minnesota.

### **Persons:**

Carlson, Susan.  
James, Ron.  
Kohl, Linda.

### **Organizations:**

Minnesota Planning (Agency).

Minnesota State Planning Agency.  
Minnesota. Dept. of Children, Families & Learning.  
Minnesota. Dept. of Human Services.  
Minnesota. Governor (1991-1999 : Carlson).  
Minnesota. Governor's Action for Children Commission.  
Minnesota. Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Preferred Citation:

*[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here].* Minnesota. Children's Cabinet. Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.  
*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

### Action for Children Commission:

#### Location

114.K.20.7B      General information, 1991-1992.  
Minutes, March 1991 - February 1994 (incomplete).  
    Includes Executive Order 91-7 (March 8, 1991).  
Membership list, undated.  
Correspondence, March 1991-1995. 7 folders.  
Subject files:  
The Children's Policy Partnership - State of Minnesota, undated.  
    IBM-Joint Application Development (JAD) Proposal, 1992.  
    Kids Can't Wait - Communications Plan, December 1993.  
    Minnesota Milestones - recommendations, [ca. November 1991].  
    News clippings, 1992.  
    Service Delivery Committee, April-September 1991.  
    The Work-Family Summit, September 17, 1992.  
Publications:  
    A Summary of Current Major Reports that Study Issues of Children  
        and Families, April 1991.  
    Final Report outline, October 1991.  
    At the Edge: Growing up in Minnesota, February 1992.

The End of Innocence, February 1992.  
Report: Kids Can't Wait: Action for Minnesota's Children, February 1992.  
Undated reports, [ca. September 1993].

### **Children's Cabinet:**

General information. 2 folders.  
Minutes, 1992-1994. 4 folders.  
Correspondence, February 1992-1994. 6 folders.  
Subject files:  
    Break the Mold Initiatives, October 5, 1992.  
    The Children's Budget, 1992.  
    The Children's Initiative - Making Systems Work, 1992.  
    Danforth Foundation Policymakers Institute: Minnesota Team Report, August 20, 1993.  
    Data Practices, January 1994.  
    The Economic Impact of Child Support Enforcement, June 1992.  
    Family Service and Community-Based Collaborative Planning Grants, 1993.  
    Joint Meeting with Legislative Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families, November 1993.  
    News articles, 1989-1992.  
    Retreat, October 5-6, 1993.  
    Retreat, July 1994.  
    Sub-cabinet, 1992.  
    Sub-cabinet, 1993-1994.  
Publications:  
    Draft of a history, [ca. 1993].  
    Helping Minnesota's Poor Children: Trends and Issues, by Stephen Coleman, 1993.  
    Children & Youth in Crisis - Policy Review of Concordia College, St. Paul, May 1993.  
    Child Poverty in Minnesota, 1993-1994.  
    A Shared Vision: State-Level Governance Options for Child and Family Services, March 1994.  
    Children of Cass County and Leech Lake Reservation - Special Report, April 1995.