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New group will advise on children's services

PROVIDENCE — Gov. Gina Raimondo has revived a group that provides advice on children's services and welfare.

The Democratic governor convened the state's Children's Cabinet Tuesday for the first time since 2007.

She tasked it with creating a five-year strategic plan to improve the lives of children and families. She also asked the group to establish clear policies and goals for each government department and create a unified children's budget.

Raimondo says she revived it because "kids matter, families matter."

She says she feels strongly as a governor and mother that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

Health and Human Services Secretary Elizabeth Roberts was named chairwoman.

The children's advocacy group Rhode Island KIDS COUNT recently ranked the state 31st in the nation for child well-being.