



Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

July 11, 2017

Claiborne Building – Thomas Jefferson Room 136 A&B

Member Name: Attendees

Alfreda Tillman Bester, JD (represented by Cara Allison)

Amanda Brunson

Charles C. Coleman, M.D.

Gina E. Eubanks

Annette L. Fruge'

Sherry Guarisco

Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, Ph.D.

Rhenda H. Hodnett, Ph.D.

James E. Hussey, M.D.

Kelly Lynn Pepper

Ashley Politz

Kathleen S. Richey, JD

Reshonn Saul

Mary Beth Scalco

Marsha Shuler

Ernise Singleton, Ph.D.

James A. Sprinkle

Ivy Starns

Jennifer Steele (represented by Dee Budgewater)

Stephanie Sterling

Mark A. Thomas (represented by Brenda Sharp)

Michael Victorian

Kahree A. Wahid

Juanita Washington

Carmen Weisner

Non-members

Sarah Berthelot
Ana Bates
Rob Carlisle
Merissa Holland
Lenell Young
Jodie Roberts
Jolan Jolivette
Rubye Noble
Valarie Laday
Kevin Clement
Steve Kauffman
Melanie Bronfin, JD
Keith Champagne
Connie Bellone
Arisa Luis

Call to Order:

The Executive Director, Dr. Dana Hunter, called the meeting to order at 10:35am and welcomed everyone for coming to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board meeting. Dr. Hunter then opened up with "reviewing the minutes" and asked if anyone had any comments. Mrs. Marsha Shuler recommended a motion to approve minutes with amendments and Carmen Weisner second the motion.

Executive Director's Report:

Dr. Hunter informed attendees that since their last meeting, they have been working very hard to push forward the Governor's Childhood Hunger Initiative. She stated that she and 4 others (State Senator Regina Barrow, Melissa Campbell with the Department of Education, Mack Williams, Director of Food Services with Louisiana Department of Agriculture, and Rhonda Jackson, the Louisiana Director for the No Kid Hungry New Orleans Campaign) attended the National Governor's Association and Share Our Strength Childhood Hunger meeting in Richmond, Virginia. Louisiana was one of ten states chosen to participate in the meeting. Dr. Hunter informed members that they learned from experts on national best practices. She also mentioned that Virginia is one of the lead states in reducing childhood hunger.

Dr. Hunter stated that in Virginia the Louisiana team developed a State Plan with input and feedback by national experts to end childhood hunger. She further stated that this plan was reviewed and approved by Governor Edwards and First Lady Edwards. She advised that upon their return from Virginia, they reached out to over 128 schools to encourage them to adopt the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and add a second meal to their program. Dr. Hunter also stated that they addressed about 70 School Superintendents to encourage them to seek opportunities to increase access to meals for children and they also spoke with Child Nutrition Directors to share their plans.

Dr. Hunter announced the "No kid Hungry Kick-off" event which they will schedule with a local school to host the launch.

Dr. Hunter also announced the plans for a statewide “School Breakfast Challenge” where monetary rewards will be offered to schools across the state with the highest percentage of breakfast participation in their schools from last year through December. She mentioned some of the barriers they face with trying to implement these changes throughout the state. She mentioned that they have partners such as, Sarah Berthelot with the Louisiana Association of United Ways, Food Research and Action Center who will help to reduce/ end childhood hunger.

Legislative wins or woes:

Dr. Hunter stated that the Governor’s office had two significant pieces of legislation to pass as it relates to children:

- “SB42 which is now Act 181” which will create a Human Trafficking Prevention Commission, as well as, an HTP Advisory board effective August 1.
- SB66, which is now Act 237” extended the date of the Children’s Cabinet and moved the duties of the Child Poverty Prevention Council to the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board, and it also moved the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund under the Governor’s Office which will be effective August 1, 2017. Lastly, Dr. Hunter encouraged members to share any ideas or questions they may have.

Dr. James Hussey, Assistant Secretary with the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), gave a quick overview of the following pieces of legislation that passed relative to mental health:

- Act 33
- Act 370 which was house bill 395
- Act 82
- Act. 88
- Act 241
- Act 73
- ACT 235
- Act 254
- Act 387
- HR 208
- HCR 55
- HCR 116

He then began to wrap up the legislative updates, mentioning that OBH has had to absorb cuts of approximately \$661,000 which has impacted central Louisiana state hospitals, operating services and professional service contracts.

The following agencies shared their legislative wins and/or woes;

- Ashley Politz with Academy of Pediatrics

- Sherry Guarisco with Louisiana Partnership for Children & Families (www.louisianapartnership.org)
- Rhenda Hodnett with the Department of Children and Family Services.
- Brenda Sharp on behalf of Mark Thomas with Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Sub-committee Discussions

Dr. Hunter reminded the group that earlier this year CCAB members voted on priority areas to focus on and make policy and programmatic recommendations to the Cabinet. The four sub-group committees that were formed were:

1. Early Childhood Mental Health
2. Childhood Hunger
3. Transitional Services For Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
4. Services for Children and Students with Disabilities

Dr. Hunter stated that in the next couple of meetings, an hour will be reserved for members to work in their sub-groups. She provided a form for each group for them to record the members of each sub-group and a brief summary of their discussions. She also requested that each group self-selects a chair and vice chair. Afterwards, the members separated into their discussion groups.

Comments

Sherry Guarisco informed attendees that a new member has been added to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, Melanie Bronfin, J.D. of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children. Dr. Hunter advised that it will be effective August 1, 2017.

Jolan Jolivet with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs announced that they will have their ADA Symposium on July 26, 2017 in the Louisiana Purchase Room.

Sherry Guarisco informed attendees about the Louisiana Budget Project which consists of a series of meetings convening across the state. She stated that information can be obtained from the Budget Project's website. She also shared her website information for those who wanted updates from the legislature.

Motion to Adjourn