

**Child**r**en’s Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting**

**Unapproved Minutes**

**November 14, 2023**

**Member Name: Attendees**

Connie Bellone Doris G. Brown

Sarah Hinshaw-Fusilier, Ph.D Mattilyn Karst

Amanda Moody Courtney Myers

Ashley Politz Lakeisha W. Robertson

Marsha E. Shuler Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D.

Stephanie Sterling Karen Stubbs

Kahree Wahid Angela Wiggins-Harris

**Member Name: Attendees Virtual**

Kathy Coleman Gina E. Eubanks

Julio Galan Gina Womack

**Member Name: Via Proxy**

Mary Hudson for Krystle H. Mitchell

**Staff:**

Dr. Melanie Washington, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director

**Guests:**

Bobbye Mathews, II, The BAMCo. Group

Nicole Campione

Dr. Kristen Savicki

**Welcome and Call to Order**:

Meeting was called to order and all present were welcomed.

**Roll Call:**

Marsha E. Shuler, Children’s Cabinet Secretary, called roll.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A quorum was not present to approve the September 12, 2023 minutes.

**Understanding the need for TBRI in our Schools, Communities and Homes**: Bobbye Matthews, II presented. Mr. Mathews is a TBRI practitioner who partners with Crossroads NOLA which is an organization based in New Orleans.

What is it?  
TBRI is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. While the intervention is based on years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research, the heartbeat of TBRI® is connection.

Who is it for and who should use it?  
TBRI is designed to meet the complex needs of children who have experienced adversity, early harm, toxic stress, and/or trauma. Because of their histories, it is often difficult for these children to trust the loving adults in their lives, which often results in perplexing behaviors. TBRI offers practical tools for parents, caregivers, teachers, or anyone who works with children, to see the “whole child” in their care and help that child reach his highest potential.

Why use it?  
Because of their histories, children who have experienced trauma have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and belief systems. While a variety of parenting strategies may be successful in typical circumstances, children with histories of harm need caregiving that meets their unique needs and addresses the whole child. That said, we’ve found that any child benefits from a nurturing, trusting relationship with a safe adult.

Crossroads began training parents/foster parents in Trust-Based Relational Intervention and quickly realized that it is not enough that only the parents are trauma informed but the teachers, coaches, social workers etc. also need to be trauma informed. Mr. Mathews believes that anyone who touches a child’s life should have TBRI knowledge or training. Discussion followed.

**Early Childhood Supports and Services**: Nicole Campione/Dr. Kristen Savicki presented on behalf of LDH – Office of Behavioral Health.

Act 167 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session established the Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS) Program fund.  American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were dedicated to the fund through 2025. The current ECSS fund terminates on December 30th.

The Early Childhood Supports & Services (ECSS) Program is a State program managed by the Department of Health and Hospital, Office of Behavioral Health.  ECSS provides a coordinated system of screening, evaluation and referral services and treatment for children ages birth through 5 years and their families. Essentially a prevention and intervention program, its elements include local, integrated and comprehensive systems of care for young children and healthy development along with school readiness.

These comprehensive services help promote a positive environment for learning, growth and relationship building.

ECSS is a group of parents, advocates, interested community members, as well as public and private agencies that meet, at least, monthly to discuss children and their families who have been referred for service coordination. The participating agencies could help with the following:

\*Early childhood programs

\*Educational needs

\*Mental health

\*Public health programs

\*Family support

\*Parenting and community support

Eligibility: Families of children who are ages 0 through 5 and those who are at risk; and families of children who have multiple risk factors which have been documented by one of the participating agencies.

Discussion followed.

**Executive Directors Report:** Dr. Melanie Washington presented the Executive Director’s report. Dr. Washington reported that this would be the last CCAB Meeting of Governor Edwards Administration.

Dr. Washington stated that for the time being during the first part of the transition that the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board should remain the same. As CCAB has statutory mandates for those who sit on the Board although they sit at the Governor’s pleasure. As an appointee of Governor Edwards Dr. Washington stated that she will be leaving along with the Governor.

It is of vital importance that the incoming Governor be informed of the importance of keeping the Children’s Cabinet and the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board going. A copy of the calendar will be sent to Governor Landry in Dr. Washington’s transition report.

Sub-committee recommendations along with specific budget items are due to the Children’s Cabinet by November 30th. If your particular sub-committee has previously submitted the complete packet along with the budget items please let the Executive Director know. Specific budget items should be sent to the Executive Director no later than November 24th.

A copy of the requested revisions to the CCAB statute was distributed to Board Members. The revisions to the statute have yet to be made. CCAB is looking for someone to sponsor the bill. A copy of the revisions will be emailed to CCAB Members.

Dr. Washington shared with CCAB Members that a couple of additions should be added including the Louisiana State Children’s Ombudsman as well as a representative from the Office on Women’s Health and Community Health as well as a the chair of the Partners in Protecting Children.

Discussion followed.

**Subcommittee Updates:** Marsha Shuler suggested that copies of the sub-committee reports be sent to legislators to let the legislative committees know what CCAB has been doing and what is needed.

**Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health**: Dr. Sarah Hinshaw Fuselier reported on behalf of the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health subcommittee. Dr. Fuselier reported that they are planning on keeping their monthly meetings at the committee will meet again by Zoom on December 5th at 10 a.m.

**Behavioral Health Services and Supports:** Marsha Shuler reported on behalf of Behavioral Health Services and Supports subcommittee. Ms. Shuler reported that the committee continues to work on Medicaid in schools and getting the state plan amendment. In addition Ms. Shuler reported that some kind of a survey needs to be done to determine where needs exist for providers, particularly behavioral health but nurses and school counselors as well.

**Department/Agency Updates**: Amanda Moody, Executive Director of Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates (LA CASA) presented an update on LA CASA. Ms. Moody reported that this past week LA CASA celebrated a rather large milestone. LA CASA is now 100% geographically represented throughout the state. This ranks LA CASA as only the third non-profit in the country to reach this milestone and the 15th overall.

ReShonn Saul thanked Dr. Melanie Washington for her work with the Children’s Cabinet and all of her help.

Dr. Melanie Washington thanked CCAB members for all of their work and support.

**Other Business**: No other business.

**Public Comments:** No public comments**.**