



Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2018 - 1:00 - 3:00 PM CST

LA State Capitol, 900 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802 | 4th Floor, Governor's Press Room

Conference dial-in number: 605-475-6700; Conference code: 6878470

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Berkley Durbin
Susanne Dietzel
Shanta Proctor
Michelle Masse
Charmaine Caccioppi
Tonya Bolden-Ball
Gail Gibson
Trin Johnson
Melissa Bayham

CALL TO ORDER

LA Women's Policy & Research Commission Chairwoman, Charmaine Caccioppi called the meeting to order.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Regina Barrow provided prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Shanta H. Proctor, Director of Women's Policy, Governor's Office welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided roll call.

NEW BUSINESS

La Women's Policy & Research Commission: Recording Secretary

Dr. Shanta Proctor reported there are four positions according to the LWPRC that must be filled and one position that has not been filled is recording secretary. The floor was open to self-nomination for recording secretary. There being no self-nominations for this position, an email will be forwarded to the LWPRC members to indicate their interest. In the meantime Charmaine Caccioppi reported her assistant Pam Allison will provide minutes for this meeting only.

ACTION: Forward email to LWPRC members to fill the recording secretary position.

Status of Women in Louisiana, Data Update: LA Domestic Violence Prevention Commission

Dr. Proctor reported statistics show that Louisiana ranks 2nd in the nation for domestic related deaths. Kim Sport, United Way of Southeast Louisiana's Public Policy Chair drafted legislation this past 2018 Legislative Session and Sen. JP Morrell carried one of the most comprehensive bills to disarm abusers and Rep. Patricia Smith carried bills which disarmed certain stalkers following convictions and certain defendants during

felony prosecutions. Legislation successfully passed during 2018 included disarming domestic abusers, lie and try, stalking, protection during prosecution, stricter penalties for abusers and protecting children from abusive parents. We are hoping to see a change in Louisiana's ranking because of these new laws for the next round of statistics.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATES

Screening of the documentary "The Children of Central City": UWSELA partnered with the City of New Orleans, and other community partners and learned that we need to become a trauma-informed community to protect and treat those suffering now and those who will suffer in the future from the violence which permeates too many homes, streets, and neighborhoods in our city. There are communities as this "Central City" throughout Louisiana.

Louisiana Kids Count - Teresa Falgoust, KIDS COUNT Coordinator, Agenda for Children:

The Casey Foundation's 2018 *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* warns that the 2020 census is mired in challenges that could shortchange the official census count by at least 1 million kids younger than age 5. For every kid we are not counting the state stands to lose a \$1,000 each. This discrepancy would put hundreds of millions of federal dollars at risk and, in doing so, underfund programs that are critical for family stability and opportunity. Louisiana is out of step. Child poverty increased between 2010 and 2016. The *Data Book* also looks at trends in child well-being during a period that saw continued improvement in economic well-being but mixed results in the areas of health, education and family and community factors. Visit the Kids Count data center for more information: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Priorities for Louisiana's Children and Planning:

Dr. Adren Wilson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs

Dr. Wilson reminded everyone how very important it is we know what we need to do, highlighting equal pay, an increase in minimum wage, as new things may arise. It's all about moral victories, real victories for children and families, community engagement, and how we activate citizens in every parish of this state. There is not transformational change without the people at the table.

Senator Regina Barrow thanked Dr. Wilson for the work they are doing and for not giving up. She's encouraged by it. She sick and tired of children being put in situations that are not their fault.

Dr. Dana Hunter, Director of Children's Cabinet:

Dr. Hunter observed everyone was shaken by The Children of Central City screening and imagined how those families function in trauma. The Louisiana Children's Cabinet in partnership with stakeholders and United Ways across the state will launch a series of listening and visioning sessions as done with The Children of Central City, as these areas are located all over the state. All stakeholders and partners will be informed of when the sessions will be scheduled. United Way of Southeast LA will serve as co-host for the Orleans/Jefferson and Tangipahoa/Washington convening. UWSELA has committed to serving as the premiere lead sponsor for the statewide summit in March. The Louisiana Children Cabinet Advisory has four areas identified for Policy and Advocacy: child hunger, services for children with disabilities, kids aging out of foster care and early childhood experiences.

Sherry Guarisco, Chair, LA Children's Cabinet Advisory Board:

Ms. Guarisco reviewed the Louisiana Children's Cabinet Advisory Board recommendations for budget priorities for children and families including 1) youth aging out of foster care, 2) youth in the juvenile justice system, 3) childhood hunger, 4) family economic stability, 5) improving access to health services, 6) draw down more federal funds to help children with disabilities and 7) quality early childhood experiences, including infant and early childhood mental health (birth to 5 years of age) and 8) the child care assistance program (CCAP). We have a waiting list of 2,500 children for early child care seats. We need to make SNAP

more vibrant to help our families. The key to fight inequality begins with moms, we need to find out what we can do to assist them. The CCAB recognizes the critical need to focus attention on the issues of equity and inclusion that disproportionately affect vulnerable children in our state.

Louisiana A+ Schools Presentation

Bethany A. France, Executive Director of Louisiana A+ Schools reported they began in 2013 as an initiative of the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts. Their mission is to transform schools by nurturing creativity in every learner. Arts is valued as essential to the learning process, is taught daily and included in planning. Louisiana A+ Statewide network now has 21 schools across the state.

Pam Quebodeaux, principal of Lake Charles Charter Academy stated they are now in their third year as a Louisiana A+ School. They are committed to training math and science teachers on how to integrate art in class. Lake Charles Charter Academy teachers teach the standards for the skills that children need and they assess and grade them on those skills.

Family Leave Insurance – Caitlin Berni and Zach Butterworth, Berni Consulting, LLC

Berni Consulting polled 600 registered Louisiana voters before Labor Day regarding Family Leave Insurance. Half of Louisiana families have taken unpaid leave, which has touched a diverse array of voters to deal with family or medical issues. Three in ten voters have experienced financial hardship due to unpaid leave. A national paid leave policy that would provide paid time off for all working people who need leave to care for a new child, their own serious illness or injury, or a family member with a serious illness or injury, received wide support across all groups.

State Fiscal Concerns 2019 – Jeanie Donovan, Policy Director, Louisiana Budget Project

Jeanie Donovan of LPB gave a report on Louisiana Women and Family Economic Security. A high percentage of moms are in the workforce. Louisiana female workers are more educated than men despite this Louisiana women are less financially secure than men. Women are less likely to be employed year round. The median wage for Louisiana women is one of the lowest in the country. A third of Louisiana families are led by single females. Female dominated occupations pay less than male-dominated occupations. A lack of childcare is holding back single and married women in the workforce.

STATE DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRIORITY UPDATES FOR 2019

Each state department gave an update on their budget priorities for 2019.

Office of Governor John Bel Edwards – Donald Songy, Education Policy Advisor

Donald Songy, Education Policy Advisor reported some of the prioritized issues of Governor John Bel Edwards include K-12 Education and Teacher School Employee Raises. We are facing a teacher shortage and a lot of that has to do with pay. Ninety percent of teachers are women. It's an issue for women and children to have adequate pay and compensation.

LA Workforce Commission – Ava Dejoie, Executive Director with Alison Ocmann presenting

The Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) assists persons with disabilities in their desire to obtain or maintain employment and/or achieve independence in their communities by providing rehabilitation services and working cooperatively with business and other community resources. LRS relinquished \$20,355,370 of federal funds in Federal Fiscal Year 2018 because LRS did not have the state matching funds. LRS received an additional last fiscal year of \$825,332 in state general funds for State Fiscal Year 2019, however, an additional \$5.5 million was needed to draw down LRS' full federal allotment. With the additional funds received this state fiscal year, LRS will open Order of Selection Group 3 on October 1, 2018, which will allow to serve more individuals, however, Order of Selection Groups 4 and 5 remain closed due to funding and staffing. LRS is still at the point of building capacity because additional staff is needed to be able to serve more consumers with disabilities with the additional funds received.

LA Department of Health - Amy Zapata, Director, Office of Public Health

Amy Zapata reported that there is a need for mental health for children from birth to age and a need to acknowledge the disparities in access to health services between children of color and white children. More federal funds need to be drawn down from the federal level to help children with disabilities. Funding for mental health consultation needs to be a priority as well as funding for home visitations.

LA Department of Children & Family Services - Terri Ricks, Deputy Secretary/Executive Counsel

Terri Ricks reported that the "Families First Prevention & Services Act" was passed last February and it increased FITAP & SNAP funding. She also suggested that DCFS needs more employees, better pay for the employees which can only happen by DCFS being fully funded. Providing proper funding would help with issues that exist with inadequate resources, high job-turn-over rates, lack of over-time pay for employees and lack of permanent positions, overbearing work load for employees, and the need for acquisition of information systems. There is a significant need for trauma informed care in schools as well as a focus on an early childhood commission.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

LWPRC's 2019 Annual Report to the Governor will be submitted to the Governor and all State Legislators prior to the 2019 Regular Legislative Session in March. Committee Chairs should begin meeting with their respective members to review what was presented last year and submit updates for their areas of Economic, Education, Hardships, Health, and Needs Identification to be prepared to give an update at our next LWPRC meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Comments and/or review of next steps

Committee and sub-committee assignment review

Helena Moreno is now Councilmember-at-Large for the City of New Orleans and Charmaine Caccioppi will now serve as Chair of the Economic Sub-Committee.

Governor's Domestic Violence Awareness Event - October 11, 2018

Everyone was invited to attend the Governor's Domestic Violence Awareness event on October 11, 2018.

Next Meeting Date

A notice will be forwarded regarding the next scheduled Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.