



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PROGRAMS *and* PLANNING

**CHILDREN'S CABINET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

April 9, 2019

State Capitol Press Room, 4th Floor

Member Name: Attendees

R. Renee Antoine	Laci Polotzola
Toni Bankston	Shanta Proctor
Alfreda Tillman-Bester	Reshonn Saul
Melanie Bronfin	Mary Beth Scalco
Amanda Brunson	Katina Semien
Lynn Clark	Marsha Shuler
Charles Coleman, M.D.	Ernise Singleton, Ph. D.
Annette L. Fruge	Jill Slack
Theresa Falgoust	Ayn Stehr
Julio Galan	Kathleen Stewart-Richey
Sherry S. Guarisco	Karen Stubbs
Brandi Huling	Michael Victorian
Joy D. Osofsky, Ph.D.	Melanie Washington
Ashley Politz	Gina L. Womack
	Lenell Young

Non-Members: Guests

Mary Moffett	Danny Mintz
Erin Brock	Kevin Clement
Taryn C. Branson	Matthew Walker
Tewabetch Negatu	Fiona Ritchey
Stacy Roussel	Erin Bendily
Deborah Chapman	Melissa Campbell
Madeline Robertson	Heaven Willis
Kristen Bordelon	Kimberly Comeaux
Cindy Bishop	Tara Emery
Vanessa Williams	Alma Stewart
Gail Grover	Connie Bellone
Jonathan Pearie	Daijah Morris
Teri Hrabovsky	Mesha Franklin
Kate Shipley	Ashlyn Henderson
Joseph Seyler	Bethany Trahan
Jodie Roberts	Athera Geiger
Karen Powell	Anita Odom
Toi Davis	Brenda Sharp
Niki Mills	Sarah Berthelot

Myra Richardson
Heather Comeaux
Dr. Mary Wade

Santrese Holloway
Atiya Weatherspoon

Staff:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Michele M. Rabalais

Welcome:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the April 9th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting. Dr. Hunter further thanked Governor John Bel Edwards for the State of the State of Address that he presented on April 8, 2019. Dr. Hunter gave a broad overview of some of the Governor's key comments pertaining to children's services.

Call to Order:

Sherry Guarisco, CCAB Chair, recognized the LA Ratify ERA coalition for Lobby Day at the Capitol.

Roll Call:

Michele Rabalais called roll. New members, Dr. Shanta Proctor, Theresa Falgoust, Toni Bankston, and Renee Antoine were introduced to the board.

Approval of Minutes:

Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, called for a review of the agenda and minutes. An amendment was offered. A motion to approve the minutes with the amendment was made by Kathleen Richey and seconded by Dr. Joy Osofsky.

Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, Guarisco announced that April 9, 2019 is Children's Day at the Capitol. To recognize this day Rep. Ted James is scheduled to present a resolution at 4 p.m. in the Louisiana House chamber to recognize child-serving agencies. Further, Susan Nelson with the Louisiana Partnership, announced she will host a lunch at noon in the Press Room to discuss the state of children in Louisiana and hear from service providers. During this time the Louisiana Partnership also will have rooms available to meet with Legislators during the luncheon.

Guests and members were invited to introduce themselves.

State Department Updates | Key Legislation:

Alfreda Tillman-Bester presented an overview of the bills that the Department of Children and Family Services drafted.

1. Senate Bill 109 by Senator Regina Barrow. This bill relative to youth in foster care to extend the age of foster care for all.
2. House Bill 363 by Representative Joseph Moreno. Relative to child support during incarceration. The proposed bill would suspend child support suspend child support during incarceration, if they are incarcerated for a certain period of time.
3. House Bill 417 by Representative Dorothy Sue Hill. Relative to payments to a minor for a judgement or settlement while a child is within the care of DCFS. Serves as a protective mechanism for the minor's dollars.
4. House Bill 537 by Representative Mike Johnson. Relative to the assignment of rights through the Department of Children and Family Services for individuals who are in foster care and ensuring the Office of Juvenile Justice receives needed funds for children within their care.

5. House Bill 548 by Representative Kenny Cox. Relative to the bureau of Criminal Identification and increasing the number of individuals who need background checks.

Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, announced that everyone can find the information for the introduced bills on the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families website.

Sherry Guarisco also reminded the board that priorities of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board remain supporting extending the age of foster care and fully funding DCFS operations. The department lost nearly 40% of its staff during the previous administration and will be requesting new staff if funding becomes available. WAE's can be used as temporary employees, however funds must be available in excess which is seldomly acquired.

Kristen Savicki discussed legislation for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH).

1. House Bill 199 the TEFERA action bill. Relative to children and families with disabilities. Although this bill is not a department bill, it waives the family's income and uses the child's income to make the child eligible for Medicaid.

Further, Mary Beth Scalco discussed bills for the Office of Public Health.

1. House Bill 38 by Representative Frank Coffman. Raises the age of tobacco products across the state from 18 to 21. The office does expect resistance from the tobacco industry thus, pre-emptive language is used to allow local jurisdictions to raise the age of tobacco product purchases from 18 to 21.
2. Senate Bill 169 by Senator Regina Barrow. Relative to tracking immunizations needs. The bill would change the law regarding storage of immunization information so that date is not purged when individuals reach age 18.

An Early Steps representative discussed Rep. Beryl Amedee's bill regarding vaccination information. House Bill 207 would require that parents be given a list of ingredients in vaccines as well as a list of adverse reaction reports. These reports can give parents the wrong idea concerning vaccinations.

In response to discussing bills regarding vaccinations Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, asked Mary Beth Scalco to discuss Louisiana's vaccination progress. Mary Beth Scalco discussed that Louisiana does well with vaccinations. One of the major concerns is that immunizations between the months of 18 and 36 have decreased. Because Louisiana requires immunizations for entry into school the rates of immunizations rise once children reach school ages. Scalco also said there has been an increase in HPV vaccinations with Louisiana being one of the top ten states for the number of vaccinations.

Dr. Dana Hunter discussed House Bill 243 by Representative Dustin Miller on behalf of Donald Songy. The bill seeks to enhance data reporting of opioid related issues, fatal or non-fatal. The current data shows that over 2,544 opioid related emergency room visits. The bill will assist in ensuring such data is reported to LDH by requiring suspected opioid-related overdoses be reported via the existing Louisiana Early Event Detection System Surveillance system

To expand on the opioid epidemic Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, discussed that Livingston Parish has a high percentage of children going into foster care related to drugs. Dr. Joy Osofsky mentioned that Louisiana Medical Center is playing a role to assist in efforts with medication assisted treatment and that prevention efforts are in place.

Erin Bendily presented updates on behalf of the Department of Education regarding ITS budget and bills. The agency's proposed operating budget contains a \$2.3 million cut, with a loss of 41 positions. Education officials do

not know where the cuts or staff reductions will be made. Bendily also said the Minimum Foundation Program, which funds K-12 schools, includes a proposed \$1,000 pay raise for teachers and \$500 per support worker. There is also a \$40 million increase in state spending for schools to meet their needs and rising costs. Bendily also reported that the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission met to discuss Louisiana's biggest needs including funding and where to target the funding. One of these needs is the waiting list Louisiana holds for quality childcare with thousands of families on this list, making this a priority for the commission. Further, it was reported that the federal government instructed the department to increase the rate of the subsidy being paid to families to lower their out of pocket expenses, making the department expand for a 20th percentile to a 25th percentile. The department also has federal competitive grant money that is set to expire this year which was further discussed.

Erin Bendily reported the Department of Education has eight bills for this legislative session.

1. House Bill 310 by Representative Wayne McMahan. Relative to revising qualifications for teacher preparation programs for new teachers.
2. House Bill 321 by Representative Scott Simon. Relative to virtual schools within Louisiana and truancy issues.
3. House Bill 336 Representative Rodney Lyons. In coordination with the Governor's Office and LDH, relative to state plans for Medicaid and billing services.
4. House Bill 395 by Representative Steve Carter. Relative to updating a fund for early childhood and child care.
5. House Bill 482 by Representative Gary Carter. Seeks to further involve parents in school development and improvement plans in schools that are rated D and F.
6. House Bill 517 by Representative Pat Smith. Relative to fees for students attending kindergarten through 12th grade public schools. There is a concern of miscellaneous fees being charged to students and those who do not have the ability to pay are missing out on extracurricular and core academic offerings.
7. House Bill 550 by Representative Christopher Turner. Relative to confidentiality in reporting instance of state licensing regulations and/or fraud in childcare assistance programs.
8. Senate Bill 194 by Senator Dan Morrish. Guarantees access to every eligible junior and senior in high school to at least two dual enrollment courses per year.

Gail Grover was asked to present any bills on behalf of the Office of Juvenile Justice. The office will be monitoring House Bill 158 by Representative Melinda White which is relative to detention facilities and the use of a risk assessment instrument used on youth prior to the youth is brought to the detention center. Gail also discussed the Acadiana detention facility and budget for the department.

Dr. Shanta Proctor reported that the Louisiana Workforce Commission is primarily concerned with House Bill 64 by Rep. Raymond Crews. This bill seeks to increase the number of hours minors can work without breaks from five hours to eight hours. The employers would be less responsible for ensuring the breaks of minors. Other bills being monitored are pay equity and minimum wage raises.

Legislative Outlook 2019:

Susan East Nelson of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families presented on updated on the legislative outlook by discussing bill that are being watched in various departments such as House Bills 103, 105 and House Bills 206 and 262 by Representative Stokes. Other bills of concern were also discussed. Susan also provided the link to a channel to watch all hearings.

Update on Governor's Package:

Donald Songy, Education Policy Advisor of Governor John Bel Edwards, reported that some of the Governor's package is contingent on the outcome of the Revenue Estimating Conference meeting on April 10. He said the numbers look good for additional revenues to be recognized. Songy said a high priority of the Governor's package is the MFP and the teacher pay raise that's in it. The teacher raises are put into the MFP so that they can remain permanent. Another part of the MFP the Governor proposed is a flat increase to send school District is use for class sizes, technology, school safety and more. If the revenue projection is approved, the Governor will work to address other issues such as early childhood education. Other updates shared by Songy were that the Governor would like to see dual-enrollment across the state and the creation of a framework for the offered courses at no cost. The Governor's Office is partnering with the Board of Regents, the Department of Education, and the school districts to ensure the dual-enrollments come to fruition. Donald Songy also led discussions surrounding the importance of Senate Bill 170 and Senate Bill 145.

Other Legislation:

Susan Nelson discussed the family leave bill and the necessity of its passage. U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy is also working on the bill on the federal level as well.

Other Business:

The Revenue Estimating Conference will meet tomorrow April 10, 2019 at 9:00 am.

Public Comments:

Sherry Guarisco introduced Senator Mike Walsworth; he greeted the board and discussed the importance of the teacher pay raise, especially among Pre-K teachers.

Kathleen Stewart-Richey announced the Child Well-Being Summit on Early Childhood will be held on May 7th and 8th, 2019.

Katrina Semien announced that Thursday, April 11, 2019, the Children's Trust Fund will host its Day at the Capitol from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a public program in the Governor's Press Room from noon to 1 p.m. Everyone is asked to wear blue in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

May 21, 2019, will be Early Childhood Education Day at the Capitol. A luncheon will be held in the Press Room. A list of Days at the Capitol will be sent to all members.

Children's Health Day will be held at the Capitol on May 20, 2019. Tables will be available for those who wish to promote health programs for children.

On Wednesday, April 17, 2019 the March of Dimes Lobby Day will be held at the Capitol.

Cindy Bishop thanked the board and guests for engaging the children who visited during the meeting.

Next Meeting:

June 11, 2019 Subcommittees will meet.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.