



Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

August 13, 2019

Claiborne Building – Thomas Jefferson Room 1-136 A&B

Member Name: Attendees

Erin Bendily
Mary Beth Scalco
Jill Dyason
Rhenda H. Hodnett, Ph.D.
Beth Touchet-Morgan
Dr. Charles C. Coleman
Gina E. Eubanks, Ph.D.
Amanda Brunson
Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, Ph.D.
Annette L. Fruge'
Julie Foster-Hagan
Laci Polotzola
Kathleen S. Richey, JD
Jill Slack
Ayn Stehr, JD

Michelle W. Victorian
Lenell Young
Melanie Washington
Stephanie Sterling
Karen Stubbs
Gina Womack
Alfreda Tillman Bester, JD
Sue Catchings
Lynn Clark, Ph.D.
Dr. Eric Griggs
Ronald Johnson
Shanta Proctor, Ph.D.
Marsha Shuler
Libbie Sonnier-Netto, Ph.D.
Dr. Joy Osofsky

Non-Members: Guests

Deborah Fontenot
Cheryl Cummings
Michelle Gros
Korey Patty
Kevin Clement
Fiona Ritchey
Karl Zollinger
Rose Lawless
Cara Allison
Kim B.
Jenny Forrest
Tewabetch Negatu, Ph.D.
Susan Nelson, JD
Theodore Thompson

Daniel Mintz, Ph.D.
Amy Hook-Poirier
Jennifer Karle
Alma C. Stewart
Edith DeVilbiss
Brittany Lacombe
Clara Joseph
Emily Deer
Faith Boudreaux
Bambi Polotzola
Melissa Campbell
Kenneth Francis
Erin Brock
Jeremiah James

Welcome:

Dr. Dana R. Hunter, Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet, welcomed members and guests to the August 13th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board meeting.

Staff:

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

Call to Order:

Sherry Guarisco, Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Chair, called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Ms. Guarisco welcomed new members Erin Bendily and Dr. Libbie Sonnier-Netto.

Roll Call:

Michele Rabalais called roll.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the April meeting minutes meeting was made by Lenell Young. Marsha Shuler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the June meeting minutes was made by Sue Catchings. Dr. Joy Osofsky seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Brief Children's Cabinet Report

Dr. Dana Hunter gave the following highlights of the Children's Cabinet Report:

1. A process has been put in place to plan a summit for the Human Trafficking to come together to talk about best practices for our state.
2. The state was awarded a Human Trafficking grant. Louisiana was the only state to receive this award.
3. The Human Trafficking Commission continues to meet.
4. Act 147 was passed during the last legislative session; it mandates that judicial jurisdictions implement an objective screening tool that helps prevent youth from entering into the juvenile justice system.
5. There is a State Scale Collaborative that meets every month to help with a successful implementation of Act 147.
6. The First Lady has taken an active interest in Human Trafficking and hunger prevention for children. Meetings with local officials who work on Human Trafficking have been arranged in Monroe, Thibodaux and Houma.

CCAB Sub-committee Priorities

Early Childhood: Presented by Dr. Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier:

1. There is an opportunity and a need for a collaborative in early childhood experience.
2. Families need support so that children are successful.
3. Primary caregivers are the biggest supporters in a child's life.
4. Focus on how we support families in the environment.
5. There is now data on the outcome between the ages 0-5 using Adverse Childhood Experiences program.
6. Things need to be shifted into a more preventative approach in order for things to get better.
7. There are evidence based prevention programs, evidence based target prevention programs, and evidence-based programs for developmental delay and mental health issues.
8. A policy position should be established on young child wellbeing, including K-12.
Discussion followed.

Early learning and literacy for K12: Presented by Erin Bendily and Dr. Libbie Sonnier-Netto:

1. Increase access to quality early care and education.
 2. Increase funding for the waitlist of approximately 3,000 children of low-income working families.
 3. Elevate improving literacy attainment as a priority by following and supporting the work of the newly formed Louisiana Early Literacy Commission.
 4. Pursue literacy intervention/acceleration within high schools for students entering Jump Start who have trouble reading.
- Discussion followed.

Behavioral Health: Presented by Marsha Shuler and Dr. Charles Coleman:

1. Improve health care services in schools
 2. More specialized care in rural areas
 3. Expand access to mental health evaluations in rural areas
- Discussion followed.

Vulnerable Youth Committee: Presented by Beth Touchet-Morgan

1. The pending implementation of the Families First Act will create an opportunity to change services for youth involved with DCFS and OJJ congregate care. Priority should be placed on adapting the State of Louisiana's service delivery method, moving from congregate care to family placements.
 2. From ACES to Opportunity: An emphasis on moving youth facing adversity to prosperous adults. Priority should be placed on creating a model such as "Open Table" to provide support and guide youth into educational opportunities and/or workforce initiatives that will prepare them for the future.
 3. Upstream Intervention through Children and Youth Planning Boards. Calls for reinvigoration of the Children and Youth Planning Boards. Funds should be provided to support administrative needs, data gathering and-or analysis or any other need determined
- Discussion followed.

Family Stability Subcommittee: Presented by Alfreda Tillman-Bester and Korey Patty

1. Expansion of the Summer Food Service Program
 2. ¼ of our children are classified as food insecure.
 3. Increase food bank distribution.
 4. Increase in reimbursement to site sponsors who provide meals for children in need
 5. Mr. Patty discussed ways to meet children where they are such as backpack programs.
 6. Discussed the subject of increasing work requirements in SNAP as an important program. Over 50% of the families in the state have at least one child in the household.
 7. There are only five major food banks statewide that provide food for low income and impoverished communities
- Discussion followed.

CCAB Sub-committee Priority Discussion

1. Request to have a presentation on status of immigrants in Louisiana.
 2. There are some families eligible for benefits that are not applying for them.
 3. Discussion on young children that are being separated from the parents. Need appropriate child development services for children being detained.
 4. The state is not notified when these children come into the country.
 5. Sue Catchings discussed meeting earlier than October 15th to craft a platform.
- Discussion followed.

Vote on Budget Priorities

1. CCAB will be involved in Empowering Children. DCFS has kind of taken the lead on that project.
2. Two topics have surfaced due to discussion which is immigration and maternal mortality.
3. More ACES needed in rural areas.
4. Look at training for ACES under the youth planning board. ACES trauma informed care training.
5. Lenell Young suggested looking at what we recommended last year and what we accomplished and that CCAB continue the path and add on others.
6. Kathleen Richey suggested prioritizing things that were not accomplished.
7. Alfreda Bester suggested that the Children's Cabinet needs to know about all of the issues. She also discussed the critical issue of children not having access to food.
8. A discussion was held about a strategy to present recommendations by topic to the cabinet. Specific program recommendations will be presented in November.
Discussion followed.

Other Business

No other business.

Public Comments

1. August 27-28 there will be a Child Wellbeing Summit.
2. LAPEN Summit, December 3rd, West Baton Rouge Conference Center, Port Allen
3. August 21 LACFA will be held at the Professional Development Center.
4. Wednesday, September 4th, La Partnership Gubernatorial Forum in Ruston.

2019 Meeting schedule is as follows:

Upcoming CCAB meetings:

Tuesday, October 15, 2019	10:00 am – 12:00 pm (CCAB), Claiborne Building, Rooms 136 A&B
Tuesday, December 10, 2019	10:00 am – 12:00 pm (CCAB), State Capitol Press Room 4 th Floor

Upcoming Children's Cabinet meeting:

TBD

Adjournment

There was a motion and a second motion to adjourn.