



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

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

February 27, 2019

State Capitol Press Room

4th Floor

Member Name: Attendees

Alfreda Tillman-Bester
Melanie Bronfin
Amanda Brunson
Charles C. Coleman, M. D.
Marsha Shuler
Julio Galan
Eric Griggs
Gail Grover
Sherry Guarisco
Rhenda Hodnett
Brandi Huling
Ronald Johnson
Jennifer Karle

Laci Polotzola
Kathleen S. Richey
Reshonn Saul
Gina E. Eubanks
Annette Frugé
Ernise Singleton
Ayn Stehr
Stephanie Sterling
Joy Osofsky
Beth Touchet-Morgan
Kahree A. Wahid
Melanie Washington
Lenell Young

Non-Members: Guests

Matthew Wallace
Jodie Roberts
Sarah Berthelot
Donald Songy
Vanessa Williams
Johnny Anderson
Rhonda Jackson
Valarie Laday
Steve Kaufman
Daniel Mintz
Connie Bellone
Kevin Clements
Sundee Winder
Kristin Savicki

Jessica Trepagnier
Susan East-Nelson
Myra Richardson
Cindy Bishop
Kate Shipley
Alma Stewart
Rick Wheat
Karen Powell
Erin Bendily
Berkley Durbin
Melissa Campbell
Taryn Branson
Laurie Carlton

Welcome:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests to the February 27th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting.

Roll Call:

Dr. Hunter asked each member to introduce themselves and then turned the meeting over to Chair Sherry Guarisco.

Approval of Minutes:

Sherry Guarisco called for review and approval of the December 11, 2018 minutes. The board approved the minutes with one revision involving the election of officers.

ALICE Study Overview and Q&A:

Sarah H. Berthelot, President, LA Association of United Ways presented a PowerPoint of the ALICE Study Overview and distributed a handout: "At-A-Glance: Louisiana." She advised that she would like for the attendees to consider how the Alice Report data could be helpful in their work. She also noted that this 3rd version of the Alice Report was released on January 8th and made possible through collaboration with the United Way throughout the state of Louisiana.

She presented the following key points:

- ALICE is defined as Asset, Limited Income, Constrained, Employee
- The foundation for ALICE is built on a household survival budget to include: housing, child care, food transportation, health care, miscellaneous, taxes and a new category of technology.
- The household income of an individual needs to exceed \$19,500 to afford the basics
- The household of a family of 4 with 2 small children needs to exceed \$53,988
- Inflation rate in Louisiana is significantly higher than the national rate but the wages and earnings have not increased which has led to an increase in the number of those who meet the definition of ALICE.
- ALICE has moved from 23% to 29% largely due to inflation and the lack of changes in wages.
- Of the 212,000 families with children in the home, 45% are considered ALICE in Louisiana.
- 66% of our jobs pay \$20.00 or less.
- East Carrol Parish has the highest poverty rate in the state.

At the end of the presentation, questions were taken from the attendees.

DOA Budget Update:

Barry Dusse Director of the State Budget Office of the Division of Administration presented the DOA Budget Update. Along with Mr. Dusse was Dr. Manfred Dix, the state's economist. Mr. Dusse said the DOA-governor did not submit an executive budget this year, but rather a proposed budget because there was no updated Revenue Estimating Conference numbers to base it on. The level of revenue was based on what the state economist submitted to the Revenue Estimating Conference to be adopted. The proposed budget was submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget last week and the DOA is waiting to see what happens. He said that the proposed budget includes a pay raise for teachers and support personnel but a decrease in the Department of Education. The proposed budget can be accessed on-line by going to the Division of Administration's website and then to the Office of Planning and Budget link.

State Department Updates: Budget, Key Legislation, Key Statistics

- *Department of Education:* Erin Bendily said there is a proposed budget increase in higher education for colleges and universities but there are plans to cut the existing Department of Education's budget by \$2.3 million requiring layoff of 41 employees. DOE receives \$34 million in state general funds. The area of reduction would have to come from the majority of the staff that provide direct support (training,

professional development, curriculum support and intervention for the children) to schools across the state. DOE officials will work hard to communicate to legislators that they feel this cut would cripple their ability to support teachers. While it is proposed that teacher get a pay raise, Bendily said if they are not provided the professional supports they need we will lose them.

Bendily also said DOE is concerned that within the budget there are no plans to replace about \$8.8 million in federal early childhood education funds that will be expiring at the end of the year.

- **Department of Health:** The department has requested additional funding for updated 21st century facilities to meet some compliance issue involving the care of some Medicaid recipients.
- **Department of Children and Family Services:** Rhenda Hodnett reported that they've requested 245 additional positions for child welfare to stabilize the caseload across the state. There is a request for vehicles and technology. She then discussed the foster care expansion.
Office of Family Support: Alfreda Tillman-Bester reported that there is nothing significantly different in the budget for next year.
- **Office of Juvenile Justice:** Beth Touchet-Morgan reported that OJJ received some funding which will allow the partial opening of a new juvenile justice facility in central Louisiana in the current budget year. In the upcoming budget year, OJJ is requesting full funding for facility operations. She noted that the Raise the Age Act goes into effect Friday and the full facility operations will be needed. She also reported that OJJ is waiting for funding due it under the Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act which should be about \$2.3 million; and preparing for the older kids to come into the juvenile justice system.

Other Business:

Melanie Bronfin gave a report on the Early Care Commission Report.
The next CCAB meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2019.

Public Comments:

Melanie Bronfin gave a report on the Early Childhood Care Commission's Report.

The Childcare Association of Louisiana will have their education conference on March 30, 2019 at the Baton Rouge Conference Center.

The Child Wellbeing Summit will be May 7 & 8th, 2019.

The 4th Health Summit will be on April 7th at Pennington.

The Governor's Conference of Juvenile Justice will be take place in New Orleans on April 24th-26th.

Sarah Berthelot requested that everyone share the number 211 which is provided throughout the state for non-emergency calls.

Adjournment:

Without further business to do, the meeting was adjourned.