



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

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

December 11, 2018

State Capitol Press Room

4th Floor

Member Name: Attendees

Ashley Politz	Laci Poletzola
Alfreda Tillman-Bester, JD	Kathleen S. Richey, JD
Melanie Bronfin, JD	Reshonn Saul
Amanda Brunson	Katina Semien, JD
Sue Catchings	Marsha Shuler
Lynn Clark, Ph.D.	Ayn Stehr
Charles C. Coleman, M.D.	Stephanie Sterling
Ruth Johnson representing Gerrelda Davis	Karen Stubbs
Gina E. Eubanks, Ph.D.	Michael W. Victorian
Annette Frugé	Kahree A. Wahid
Sherry Guarisco	Melanie Washington
Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, Ph.D.	Lenell Young

Non-Members: Guests

RiKeisha Spikes	Sarah Berthelot
Faith Boudreaux	Loren Carriere
Ryann Martinez	Susan East Nelson, JD
John Wyble	Michelle Gros
Angela Vanveckhoven	Brenda Sharp
Melissa Campbell	Madeline Robertson
R. Renee Antoine	Taryn C. Branson

Welcome:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, welcomed members and guests to the December 11th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting.

Staff:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Michele Rabalais, CC/LCTF Executive. Assistant

Call to Order:

Sherry Guarisco, Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Chair, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Michele M. Rabalais called roll.

Approval of Minutes:

Sherry Guarisco, CCAB Chair, called for a review of the August 17, 2018 and October 9, 2018 minutes. Sue Catchings made a motion to approve the August minutes as presented. Marsha Shuler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried. It was suggested that a bullet be added on the end of page four in October's minutes regarding Parenting Education initiatives, a recommendation made by Jennifer Karle in October's meeting. Marsha Shuler made a motion to approve October minutes with the aforementioned addition. Katina Semien seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Sherry Guarisco proposed starting at numbers six and seven on the agenda. All approved.

Review of Bylaw Requirements:

Sherry Guarisco discussed the summary of revisions to the bylaws made in March 2017. A copy of the revised bylaws was distributed to all CCAB Members.

The first revision changed the number of members present for a quorum to a majority. The second requires notice to appointing authorities following a second consecutive absence of its representative. Notifications will be sent out to appointing agencies once a member has missed two meetings in a row. Following a member's third consecutive absence, it requires both removal and request for a new appointment from that agency while allowing the Chair or Vice-Chair to waive such removal in the event of extenuating circumstances.

In addition, Ms. Guarisco asked CCAB Vice-Chair Kathleen Stewart-Richey to lead a membership committee so that there is an ongoing conversation with any members who are not showing up, seeing if something is happening, and/or welcoming new members and orienting them to what is going on. Discussion followed.

Election of Officers:

Nominations were then solicited for the CCAB Vice Chair. Ms. Guarisco nominated Kathleen Stewart-Richey for re-election. Alfreda Tillman-Bester made a motion to close nominations. Gina Eubanks seconded the motion. All approved. Lenell Young made a motion to accept the nomination of Kathleen Stewart-Richey as Vice Chair. Gina Eubanks seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried. Discussion followed.

The 2019 schedule of meetings was distributed and discussed. Meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Calendar invites will be sent out via Outlook.

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Sub-committee Priorities:

The top three or four priorities among the 33 members who voted were.

1. Youth Aging out of Foster Care
 - Stated that this is the moral thermometer in our state even though affects a smaller amount of children.
 - Increase in funds for foster care and a lot of energy around studying this area.
 - 3-year grant from Youth Village.
 - DCFS to decrease the numbers of youth who are aging out.
2. Stabilize DCFS operations and infant and toddler mental health programming
 - DCFS:
 - No other agency hit any harder than DCFS in last administration.
 - Could sit on hold for hours when trying to report child abuse to DCFS. Call-drop rate is over 50%.
 - Marsha Shuler stated that Marketa G. Walters, DCFS Secretary, has submitted a request for additional staff.
 - Alfreda Tillman-Bester stated this is a challenge, and this is the most vulnerable population. A lot of people get their benefits terminated; not by any fault of their own, but because DCFS cannot do what they are supposed to do which causes challenges in terms of requirements because access is an essential part of providing services that DCFS is supposed to provide.
 - Contracted out call center because we cannot hire enough people to answer phones in a timely manner.
 - Sue Catchings notes that stories are powerful. Asks other members to get stories from DCFS, while protecting identities of the children, and then CCAB can carry them to the legislators. We need the stories so that we can go to the legislators with something that moves them.
 - Melanie Bronfin stated that sharing stories with legislators is important.
 - Alfreda Tillman-Bester added that this administration allows members to tell the truth of what is going on. She mentions that they are free to tell the truth that they cannot fulfill the mission of DCFS due to the staff shortage.
 - Lenell Young suggested the opioid crisis is contributing greatly and escalates problems.
 - Infant-Toddler Mental Health:
 - Louisiana had a program called ECSS that was a nationally recognized program funded by TANF.
 - In 2017, 42 % of children in foster care were under the age of 5.
 - Support the Childcare Assistance Program to reduce the wait list and further support working families AND Family Economic Stability and anti-hunger initiatives, including school feeding programs, expanded SNAP employment and training, and funding for "2-1-1" to assist families in accessing services.

- Childcare Assistance Program:
 - Down from 40,000 to under 20,000
 - 15% of these children do not have access
 - Number of families on the waiting list is close to 3,000
 - Asking for funding for this program is needed.
 - Family Economic Stability and Anti-Hunger Initiatives:
 - Over ¼ of the state’s population lives below the poverty line. \$24,000 for a family of four is the poverty line. The ALICE Report will be released sometime in January.
 - “2-1-1” is a part of this conversation and could help relieve some of DCFS’s call center volume.
3. Others priorities
- (1) Home visitation, parenting education and other programs to improve perinatal outcomes, including initiatives to reduce substance-exposed newborns
 - (2) Health services for children and youth in schools, including expanded school based health centers and accessing federal Medicaid funds
 - (3) Earned Income Tax Credit to support working families
 - (4) Acadiana Center for Youth and community-based initiatives in support of Raise the Age Commission – perception we would have funding but recent efforts with revenue estimating committee stalled the work by not recognizing the new revenue.

Alfreda Tillman Bester made a motion to approve recommendations. Kathleen Stewart-Richey seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Dr. Dana Hunter stated that she attended Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) conference in Miami. Dr. Hunter stated that she is looking to move forward with the work of Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative in conjunction with Raise the Age. Raise the Age goes into effect March 1, 2019. The Commission has been working to educate law enforcement, developing pocket cards that highlight the law and what to do upon arrest.

Marsha Shuler gave an update on the quorum situation. The by-laws state a quorum of those appointed to the Board it does not say appointed or their designee therefore proxy vote does not count. Ms. Shuler also noted that the Board needed to elect a Secretary in addition to the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Kathleen Stewart-Richey nominated Marsha Shuler for CCAB Secretary. Nominations closed. Motion approved. Marsha Shuler will serve as Secretary of the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board.

Dr. Hunter stated that First Lady Edwards convened a meeting a month ago regarding Children’s Mental Health. Today, the Children’s Cabinet meeting will focus on Children’s Mental Health and the role of school counselors. She invited the Board to attend and engage in the discussion.

Dr. Hunter also welcomed a few new members that have been appointed: Laci Polotzola, Julio Galan, Theresa Falgout, Toni Bankston, and Lenell Young. She acknowledged Ruth Johnson, the former Secretary of DCFS who is now at the Louisiana Primary Care Association and is sitting in for Gerrelde Davis.

Dr. Hunter informed the Board that the Children's Cabinet will host a Human Trafficking Awareness event on January 9th, 2019 at 10:30 am. The Governor and First Lady will attend, and the Governor will make a very special announcement about our state spearheading an initiative. Flyers were distributed.

Public Comments:

Public attendees introduced themselves.

2019 Meeting schedule is as follows:

Meetings will be held the second Tuesday of every other month beginning in February. The time is from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Dr. Hunter will send electronic calendar invites as well.

Upcoming CCAB meetings:

Tuesday, February 12, 2019	10:00 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)
Tuesday, April 9, 2019	10:00 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)
Tuesday, June 11, 2019	10:00 am – 12:00 pm (CCAB)
Tuesday, August 13, 2019	10:00 am – 12:00 pm (CCAB)
Tuesday, October 15, 2019	10:00 am – 12:00 pm (CCAB)
Tuesday, December 10, 2019	10:00 am – 12 :00 pm (CCAB)

Upcoming Children's Cabinet meeting:

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. State Capitol Press Room 4th Floor

Adjournment: Gina Eubanks made a motion to adjourn. Michael Victorian seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.