



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

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

June 12, 2018

Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room 136 A-B

Member Name: Attendees

Alfreda Tillman-Bester	Jennifer Karle
Melanie Bronfin	Kelly Lynn Pepper
Sue Catchings	Kathleen Stewart Richey
Dr. Charles C. Coleman.	Reshonn Saul
Dr. Gina Eubanks	Mary Beth Scalco
Annette Fruge	Katina Semien
Dr. Eric Griggs	Marsha Shuler
Sherry S. Guarisco	James Sprinkle
Dr. Sarah Hinshaw Fuselier	Stephanie Sterling
Dr. Rhenda Hodnett	Mark A. Thomas
Dr. Kristin Savicki for Dr. James Hussey	Kahree Wahid
Ronald Johnson	Gina L. Womack

Non-Members: Guests

Martha Wallace	Julie Foster Hagan
Kevin Clement	Rebekah Dickman
Melissa Campbell	Robert Blue
Connie Bellone	Lenell Young
Brenda Sharp	Steve Kaufmann
Jeanie Donovan	Carolina Larme
Cindy Bishop	Taryn C. Branson
Susan Nelson	

Call to Order:

Ms. Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the June 12, 2018 Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting.

Ms. Guarisco stated that she along with Dr. Dana Hunter and Michele Rabalais will review the list of members to ensure that everyone is designated in the right category and everyone is appointed in the right area.

Ms. Rabalais, Children's Cabinet/Children's Trust Fund Executive Assistant called roll. All guests were invited to introduce themselves and state which agency they represent and whether or not they were appointed by the Governor. The legislation states that there are 39 appointments and 3-5 parents on the Children's Cabinet Advisory

Board. There is also a clause that allows the Governor to appoint whomever he/she thinks is needed to support this endeavor.

Ms. Guarisco called for a review of the agenda and minutes. Ms. Guarisco stated that there has been a change to the Agenda. Susan Nelson was unable to attend and Cindy Bishop will speak in her place. Marsha Shuler offered technical corrections to the minutes. Kelly Lynn Pepper seconded the motion. All approved.

Dr. Charles Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments/corrections. Kahree Wahid seconded the motion.

Executive Directors Report:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, gave the following Children's Cabinet Update:

- a.) **Special Session:** Dr. Hunter stated that the Children's Cabinet Office has been sending updates to CCAB Members to keep advocates informed and updated. A special thanks was given to all involved with this process.
- b.) **No Kid Hungry:** No Kid Hungry was implemented about a year ago and is already receiving national attention. Dr. Hunter has been invited to Chicago for the National School Breakfast Institute to highlight the outcomes and impact here in Louisiana. Dr. Hunter stated that we are now entering Phase II of 'No Kid Hungry' by implementing the medical model and working with the USDA to add additional meals that will be served in hospitals and health units where possible as well as federally qualified health centers across the state.
- c.) **Raise the Age:** The implementation date of Raise the Age has been moved to March, 2019. The commission will reconvene on June 25, 2018 to see what is needed in order to successfully implement in March 2019. It was noted that locals and the community need to be educated and law enforcement, D.A.'s and Judges need to be trained regarding Raise the Age. All parties that may be impacted by this law need to be educated.
- d.) **Human Trafficking:** The Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board continue to meet. The Governor's Office and Commission are now waiting for the state's comprehensive report from the National Criminal Justice Training Center that contains information collected during the Human Trafficking Summit's that were held across the state. The report will help identify gaps as well as laws that need to be enacted regarding Human Trafficking. The Commission and Advisory Board will use this information and will play a large role in developing the strategic plan in addressing the issue of Human Trafficking.
- e.) **LCTF (Louisiana Children's Trust Fund):** SB66 was passed and went into effect on August 1, 2017 moving the Children's Trust Fund from DCFS to the Governor's Office. In addition to the move the legislation changed giving final approval of grant awards to the Children's Cabinet. The Children's Cabinet has moved approval of the LCTF Board's recommendations for FY 2019. A list of funded LCTF grantees will be shared with CCAB members and the public.
- f.) **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG):** Members of the Cabinet have worked with the Grandparents to identify gaps with the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Council as well as the organization itself. Kia Sims with the Governor's Office has been appointed to lead the council and has been doing a great job in getting people involved and making sure all seats are filled. The Children's Cabinet has looked at gaps for the organization and would like to earmark funding for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. At this time GRG has only one consistent funding source that may allocate \$15,000-20,000. The GRG rely heavily on Louisiana Children's Trust Fund dollars but if its application is not approved then the organization goes without. The Children's Cabinet has

recommended that funds be earmarked for GRG. Sherry Guarisco stated that Louisiana ranks second in the nation for the number of grandparents raising grandchildren. Discussion followed.

Sherry Guarisco also stated that Donna Britt, WAFB news anchor, who has been a long and consistent supporter of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, is set to retire due to illness. Ms. Guarisco stated that she feels it would be most appropriate to get a letter from the Governor's Office, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and possibly the Children's Cabinet to thank her for her years of service.

- g.) **CYPB (Children and Youth Planning Board)**: A meeting will be scheduled soon to convene for this year to get an update and assess the needs of the active planning boards.

Budget & Special Session Update: Nick Albares, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office of Health and Human Services, provided the CCAB with a budget and special session update.

Mr. Albares stated that the major revenue bills did not pass during the regular session and a third special session will be called for which will take place from June 18-27, 2018. Mr. Albares informed the Board that some revenue bills did pass such as funds from the BP settlement. These funds are considered recurring revenue as the state will continue to receive these funds for the next 19 years.

HB18 passed which reduces the credit for taxes paid in other states which will raise approximately \$33 million dollars a year.

In addition, the earned income tax credit was raised from 3.5% to 5%, but this will not go into effect until FY 20. The earned income tax credit subsidizes low-income working families and allows these families to have more expendable income. Studies show that the earned income tax credit also has shown a positive impact on the health and education of children.

Mr. Albares also stated that the ½ cent as well as the 1/3 cent sales tax did not pass.

HB1 did pass and was signed by the Governor. The Department of Health was fully funded but other agencies took substantial hits. It was written into the bill though that priorities would be funded if the tax measures are passed in the third Special Session.

If the tax package does not pass this would cause cuts of \$25.5 million to youth services, this includes cuts to the Acadiana Center for Youth, Raise the Age, regional programming, youth aging out of foster care, as well as cuts to higher education.

Sherry Guarisco asked if the 1/3 cent sales tax passed instead of the ½ cent would it make a difference in funding programs such as LA4 and SNAP. Mr. Albares stated that with the ½ cent renewal all would be funded and anything short of the ½ cent all revenue raised would be distributed amongst the agencies. The ½ cent renewal would reinstate the 24.4% in cuts. Discussion followed.

Mr. Albares informed the Board that the funding for youth aging out of foster care is tied to the ½ cent sales tax being passed. In addition it would allow for the Acadiana Youth Center to open with partial operations. Dr. Dana Hunter stated that in talks with Dr. James Bueche, OJJ, he stated that in order for Raise the Age to be implemented successfully that the Acadiana Youth Center must be open and fully operational. Discussion followed.

The SNAP program was not designated but each department would face a 24% cut if the sales tax is not renewed. This cut in funding would mean the SNAP program would be cut from DCFS. SNAP is a federally funded program

but administrative costs are partially paid by the state. If DCFS does not have the funds pay for these costs the program would have to be cut. Discussion followed.

Mr. Albares stated that the Governor prefers to make the taxes permanent. If the tax increase is renewed it would be for 7 years and not for five years. Temporary taxes can cause a lot of instability. Discussion followed.

Susan Nelson with the Partnership for Children and Families shared information about the fiscal cliff, the SNAP program, etc. on the Partnership's website.

Save the Children recently published the End of Childhood report which ranks Louisiana 50th. A link to the report will be sent to CCAB members. Discussion followed. The link to this report will be sent to all CCAB members.

Sherry Guarisco stated that one of the charges of the CCAB is to make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet through the Executive Director as to specific programs with the greatest potential for reducing child poverty and funding opportunities for the implementation of such programs. Discussion followed.

It was discussed that an e-mail containing talking points should be composed and sent out to individuals to use when speaking to their legislators. Discussion followed.

Additional Legislative Update:

Cindy Bishop presented the additional legislative update. The following information was discussed:

- 1.) Ms. Bishop stated that she worked on getting \$10 million dollars in the budget to fund Early Childhood Education. At this time there are 5,200 families on the childcare assistance waiting list to receive help with childcare costs. These are the children of families who are either working or in school. The \$10 million was not funded but Ms. Bishop stated that the state is expecting around \$40 million dollars from the federal government that will hopefully cover some of the shortfall. Approximately \$27 million will be allocated to funding those on the waiting list.
- 2.) School Based Health Centers should be a priority as they provide preventative and primary health care as well as mental health care for students.
- 3.) Importance of the EITC (earned income tax credit).
- 4.) Solutions for Poverty – need to address the issue of poverty. Discussion followed.

Jeanie Donovan, an analyst with the Budget Project, stated that the school lunch shaming bill died and that it was turned into a study resolution. The Budget Project will continue to monitor the meetings and workgroups and will provide recommendations before the next legislative session.

Rhenda Hodnett stated that a study resolution was passed to extend youth aging out of foster care and would allow youth who are still in high school to remain in foster care till age 21. Discussion followed.

In addition discussion followed concerning Representative Stephanie Hilferty's bill that creates an Early Childhood Commission that would make recommendations for the creation of a master plan for Early Childhood Education prior to the next session. Discussion followed.

HB776 was discussed that would allow mental health providers/services into schools. Discussion followed. Sherry Guarisco recognized Bambi Polotzola for her remarkable work for people with disabilities.

It was also mentioned that the Department of Health is in the process of publishing a state plan amendment that would open up mental health reimbursement for schools to all children with Medicaid.

CCAB Membership & Requirements: Sherry Guarisco stated that the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board has until August 31st to make recommendations for budget recommendations to be sent to the Children’s Cabinet for next year. Ms. Guarisco requested that the sub-committees meet prior to the August 17th CCAB Meeting to discuss budget priorities and recommendations.

Other Business:

Stephanie Sterling discussed additional legislation. This included the Safe Haven Consortium that has worked on defining what constitutes a Safe Haven. The Louisiana Law Institute recommended HB 643 that passed both the House and Senate that would make adoptions more ethical and transparent in the state of Louisiana.

James Sprinkle spoke regarding lead abatement. Families Helping Families has funds available to help organizations and families with issues regarding lead abatement. Discussion followed.

Katina Semien, Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund Executive Director, supplied information regarding the Look Before You Lock campaign which has just begun and will run through September.

The Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families will hold its Annual Meeting on July 30th.

Meeting schedule is as follows:

Upcoming CCAB meetings:

Friday, August 17, 2018	10:00 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)	Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room
Tuesday, October 9, 2018	10:00 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)	Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room
Friday, December 14, 2018	10:00 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)	Capitol Press Room, 4 th Floor

Upcoming Children’s Cabinet meeting:

Tuesday, September 11, 2018	10:30 am to 12:00 pm	State Capitol Press Room 4 th Floor
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Adjournment: Alfreda Tillman-Bester made a motion to adjourn. James Sprinkle seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.