



**STATUS ON THE COUNCIL OF GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
MINUTES**

February 12, 2021

Members in Attendance:

Talya Bergeron
Donna Bowie
Kathy Coleman
Rose Doolittle
Jack Harrison
Mary Norris
Kathleen Richey
Lakeisha Robertson
Amanda Skinner
Michael Stewart
Brenda Swanigan
Joanna Tonguis
James Vidacovich

Guests in Attendance

Jarwanda Harris

Call to Order:

Tewabetch Negatu called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

Kathy Coleman made a motion to approve the December 11, 2020 minutes, Michael Stewart 2nd the motion.

Member Updates

- ***Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:*** Kathy Coleman stated that her organization was able to do a no contact drive through for grandparents. Stated many grandparents were still having difficulty navigating technology for their grandchildren.
- ***Southeast Legal:*** Talya Bergeron stated her organization continues to do intakes over the phone. They offer of individuals calling over the phone and have included a drop box to the front of the office so individuals can drop off their paperwork.

Council functionality

- The council will function as a subcommittee of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board moving forward. Per statue the council is to function in this way, however during the years it splintered away for this process. GRGC will operate as a working group and will present findings/information to the Children's

Cabinet as standalone subcommittee. In August GRGC will provide budget priorities and in November GRGC will need list specific budget items that will be included in the budget.

- CCAB has also created a data subcommittee. Members should work towards identifying data points that we will need to utilize to paint a better picture of the barriers grandparents/caregivers are experiencing.
 - How many participants in Louisiana were grandparents or a kinship caretaker?
 - Average household income for GRGC/kinship care provider?

Priorities for GRGC for 2021

- Addressing food insecurity of grandparents & grandchildren – Kathy Coleman (lead)
- Increasing accessibility of legal assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren- Talya Bergeron (lead)
- Provide support/resources for grandparents to ensure grandchildren’s education isn’t adversely impacted- Lakeisha Robertson (lead)

Members discussed the requirements for SNAP beneficiaries and discussed finding a way to potentially amending legislation so that kinship care providers can be considered. Additionally, members discussed looking at potential state funding streams to provide food boxes for seniors who take care of their grandchildren.

Talya stated that she would discuss promo work with LSC or with the Bar Association.

2021 Nominations

Ms. Kathy Coleman made a motion to nominate Talya Bergeron as Chair for 2021, the motion was seconded by Jack Harrison. The motion carried without objection.

Jim Vidacovich made a motion to nominate Kathy Coleman as Vice-chair for 2021, the motion was seconded by Talya Bergeron. The motion carried without objection.

Closing Remarks

Talya made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Kathy Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.