



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

February 21, 2020
East Baton Rouge Library

Members in Attendance:

Jack Harrison
Rita Hathorne
Mary Norris
Lakeisha Womack Robertson
Joanna Tonguis
Rose Dolittle
Talya Bergeron
James Vidacovich
Kathleen Richey
Ayn W. Stehr
Donna Bowie
Michael Stewart
Heidi Bourgeois
Kathy Coleman

Guests in Attendance

N.A

Call to Order:

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

Approval of the Minutes:

November and February minutes will be approved at the May's council meeting.

Welcome and Introductions:

New members and current members were asked to introduction themselves and the organizations they represent

TBRI Training

Tewabetch informed the council that TBRI Trainings would be provided to grandparents throughout the state for the months of March and April at no cost. TBRI stands for Trust-Based relational intervention. The council was informed to use the special code in order to register for the classes and were told that if the response rate was high during these months then consideration would be given to provide these trainings at no cost in the future. Council members were encouraged to share these codes throughout their organizations in addition to t the populations they serve.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Report

Tewabetch provided the entire council with copies for the 2019 GRCC report and ask for members to provide feedback to report and provide any recommendations. Stated that data presented in the report was extremely difficult to come by and asked The Council to provide any data related to grandparents raising grandchildren to her. Furthermore, it was expressed that for the future reports she welcomes and encourages more participation

Chair and Vice Chair:

Ms. Kathy Coleman nominated Talya Bergeron as President for the council for the 2020 year, the decision was seconded by Rita Hathorne. Talya Bergeron nominated Kathy Coleman and the decision was seconded by Jim Vidacovich.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference

Ms. Kathy notified the council that The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Center will hold their annual conference on Friday, April 24th between 8:30am-2:30pm. The conference will consist of six to eight workshops and offer CEUs. The conference is open to the public and is complete free. Additionally, the conference will also conduct a tribute to Dot Thibodeaux.

- Kathleen Richey asked if CASA workshops could be added to the conference; mentioned that many CASA workers don't have a lot of knowledge/information regarding student IEPs.

McKinney Vento Homelessness Act

Rose DoLittle expressed that more awareness needs to be done around the McKinney Vento legislation. The goal of The Act is to ensure that each homeless child or youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths. The legislation requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to enroll children and youth experiencing homelessness in school immediately and ensure the prompt transfer between previous and enrolling schools.

- Kathleen Richey stated that the federal legislation should be amended to

Family in Need of Services (FINS)

The council reached a consensus that a FINS representative should be represented on The Council. FINS brings together resources for the purpose of helping troubled youth and their families to remedy self-destructive family behavior or pre-delinquent juvenile behaviors. Jack Harrison mentioned that FINS will have a conference in March and stated he would provide Tewabetch with that information so she may send out to the council.

Act 240 of 2019 (State Law)

Heidi highlighted that schools are now required by law to publish their tuition fees on their website in addition to how the school plans to address how to deal with families who are expressing an economic hardship. The mentioned Act came into effect at the end of last year and requires each public school governing authority to adopt and publish on its website a policy for assessment, collection and use of fees. Requires specified components to be included in such policies including fee lists, amounts and use a process for requesting waivers due to economic hardship and an appeals process when waivers are denied. Requires each public school to publish the policy on its website and include it in the school's student handbook. Also provides for requested school supplies.

Closing Remarks

Tewabetch stated that she would send out the minutes in addition mentioned topics discussed at the council early next week.