



COUNCIL ON THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

June 15, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Members in Attendance:

Robresha Anderson
Aishala Burgess
Renee Carthan
Kevin Griffin-Clark
Penny Douciere
Dr. Dana Foster
Troynyah Hankton

Dominique Jones-Johnson
Natalie LaBorde
Ivy Mathis
Dr. Kelli Peterson
Kim Robinson
Ashley Sias

William A. Sommers

Guests in Attendance:

Jarwanda Harris
Sherlyn Hughes
Dr. Tewabetch Negatu
Jarwanda Harris

Call to Order:

Ms. Jones-Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes:

Ms. Jones-Johnson made a motion to approve the June minutes. Secretary Sommers approved the motion and Kim Robinson second that motion.

New Member

Ms. Ashley Sias was introduced to the council. She is the new appointee for the Department of Children and Family Services. Ms. Sias has been with DCFS for the past 11 years and has worked with juvenile delinquents at Jetson and has worked in a coup group homes for nearly six years.

Shared vision for CIP report:

Ms. Dominique went through an over of the CIP report that will be due in 2022. She expressed the importance of quantitative and qualitative data. Below is a brief overview of the report and chapters that can included.

- Chapter 1- What's happening in Louisiana
- Chapter 2- Youth Voices
- Chapter 3- Voices of those incarcerated who have children
- Chapter 4- Caregivers' experiences
- Chapter 5- Recommendations [Solutions, Policies and/or areas to further explore]

The Louisiana Council for Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers will work to ensure all children who are impacted by parental incarceration be supported mentally, physically, and academically and those caregivers will be provided with adequate resources to support them.

Breakout Groups:

Council and committee members were split into breakout groups to work on identifying questions that could be used for interviewing participants. Breakout groups were divided into the following topics: Data, Youth, Caregivers. Additionally, members were asked to identify data they would like to explore further.

Discussion & Feedback:

Subcommittee members were asked to share topics discussed from their breakout sessions. Below are a few of the topics addressed.

- **Data** – Percentage of children impacted by incarceration are enrolled in schools that are in foster care or that are homeless. Percentage of counselors trained in trauma-informed care.
- **Youth** – Learn how to have engage children about their emotional well-being.
- **Caregivers** – Challenging aspects of being a caregiver to children whose parent is incarcerated and how to help increase communication between parents and their children.

Next Steps:

Committee chairs were asked to compose a list of about 10-15 questions for next meeting. Chairs were asked to identify a leader who could conduct interviews and identify a member that transcribe the information from interviews. Ms. Jones-Johnson went over a brief timeline for the rest of the year.

Public Comments

Ms. Jones-Johnson shared that the girls in her program were going to do a fundraiser at Studio Be in New Orleans on Saturday from 1:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to highlight the impact of mass incarceration and share a short film entitled *Dear Black Girls*.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.