



Children's Cabinet

Unapproved Minutes

June 29, 2017

Capitol Press Room 4th Fl

Cabinet Members/Representatives Attendees:

Deputy Secretary OJJ Dr. James Bueche Jr.

State Representative Barbara Carpenter

Judge Desiree Cook-Calvin

Commissioner John Dardenne Jr. (Represented by Marsha Shuler)

Secretary LWC Ava Dejoie

BESE Board Member Kathy Edmonston (represented by Nikki Landry)

Secretary LDH Dr. Rebekah Gee (Represented by Mark A. Thomas)

Executive Director CC Dr. Dana Hunter

Secretary Donald Pierson Jr. (Represented by Sherri McConnell)

Secretary DCFS Marketa Walters

Call to Order:

Executive Director, Dr. Dana Hunter, called Children's Cabinet meeting to order at 10:05 am and welcomed members and guests. The roll was called and afterwards Dr. Dana Hunter announced the opening remarks to begin from Governor John Bel Edwards.

Opening Remarks:

The Governor thanked everyone for being present, having an active role and being concerned about child hunger. He recognized his daughter and niece who were in attendance. The Governor spoke briefly on child hunger issues and once again thanked the audience for their participation.

Dr. Dana Hunter asked Cabinet members to review the minutes from the previous meeting and there was a motion to approve the minutes.

Update on Child Hunger Initiative

Dr. Hunter recognized those members who accompanied her to Virginia for the National Governor's Association (NGA) Learning Lab briefing, in which they learned strategies to reduce childhood hunger in Louisiana. Dr. Hunter stated that on May 15, 2017 Governor Edwards announced that the reduction in child hunger in our state will be done with Louisiana's partnership with NGA and Share Our Strength.

As Dr. Hunter continued, she informed the audience of the diverse guest list that attended the learning lab in Virginia, and how the programs that are presently taking place in Virginia are working and putting an end to child hunger. In like manner, Dr. Hunter mentioned that teamwork and finding the root of the problem and coming up with a solution together is most important.

A description of the programs being implemented was described by Dr. Hunter, as she stated the *Grab & Go* breakfast could be on the bus where children would receive a brown paper bag lunch with a few breakfast items, just to help start their day. They have also put in place another program for after school lunch, because of low percentile numbers of kids having access to dinner after school. Dr. Hunter further noted that only good comes from such a program and that the program raises money for the schools participating. She provided examples of those participating in the program providing simple sandwiches, burgers & hot dogs that were prepared for kids on the weekends at no cost to the provider & full reimbursement from the government. Another example that Dr. Hunter provided was that one school actually had catered lunch and breakfast, simply because the average student was sometimes displeased with cafeteria lunch and therefore they chose not to eat it. Lastly, she concluded by saying this program is beneficial to everyone, and that if it can happen in Virginia it surely can happen for us in Louisiana.

Upcoming No Kid Hungry Louisiana Kick-Off Event “School Breakfast Challenge”

Dr. Hunter discussed the strategic plan. First, she described the upcoming No Kid Hungry Louisiana Kick-off Event. She also informed the cabinet members of the meeting she had with school superintendents and how some of them were eager to start getting involved with putting an end to this epidemic. Dr. Hunter would like East Baton Rouge Parish School System to be a role model for all the other parishes, so that our entire state will be adopting the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Discussion: Needs and Challenges

The Cabinet members discussed some challenges with the schools getting involved in the feeding program for kids. The Governor was very attentive and involved in the discussion as he made remarks of how this program can only bring good. He also questioned why some superintendents wouldn't want to participate in the program. A Cabinet member commented that most superintendents feel that if all of their kids cannot eat for free, they don't want any to eat for free. Dr. Hunter continued to let other cabinet members comment on the issue.

Brief Presentation: ALICE Study

Sarah Berthelot, President of Louisiana Association United Ways, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Study. She began by defining and providing examples of “ALICE”. She provided an average income, amount of children and typical salary of “ALICE”. She then went on to provide the cabinet members with charts and percentile rankings of how many single mothers in Louisiana are actually ALICE. Ms. Berthelot made the Alice Study book available to each cabinet member in attendance.

Legislative Wins

Cabinet members were given the opportunity to inform attendees of their legislative wins and setbacks.

Other Business

No Other Business

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.