



Children's Cabinet

Advisory Board

Minutes

March 8, 2016

Claiborne Building, Rm 136-A

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Children's Cabinet Executive Director, Dr. James Gilmore, called the meeting to order at 10:15am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Executive Director, Dr. James Gilmore, discussed how important it is for everyone to work together in order to move children and families forward in Louisiana. He passed out the last page of the Transitional Report which showed the recommendations of the Transition Committee, related to the Children's Cabinet. Dr. Gilmore advised that the Governor's Office is taking steps based on those recommendations. The Advisory Board advised that based on the past, the Children's Cabinet needs to be more engaging. The Executive Director advised that the Governor has heard their concern; therefore, The Governor or his wife will be chairing the Children's Cabinet.

Membership Executive Director's Report

Those who would like to continue serving on the Advisory Board were informed that their names were shared with the Governor's new Director of Board and Commission, if they replied to Dr. Gilmore's e-mail; and they would receive a link by the end of the week to go online to apply for board membership. The Board was advised that if they knew of anyone who should be invited to serve, inform the Executive Director.

A list of the Cabinet's Level Appointees for this administration was given to those present.

Future advisory board meeting schedule was passed out, along with key contacts in the Governor's Office and Community Programs.

Dr. Gilmore informed the Board that he began his position on February 1, 2016 and since then he has had the opportunity to meet with various people to discuss policy, programs, and initiatives. He also informed that he has had the opportunity to attend the LA PEN, Legislative and the Childcare Licensing Conference.

Dr. Gilmore gave an overview of the Governor's Budget Briefing which took place last month that discussed potential budget impacts to children and family.

Dr. Gilmore opened up the discussion concerning the Kids Dashboard, which includes data from state agencies relating to children. The Board discussed the problem with obtaining updated information, the need for a centralized data system to obtain information and possibly having a link from the Children's Cabinet website to other agencies. The Board also discussed the need to move forward with a user friendly, fully funded, updated system that can be shared but protects confidentiality.

One member stated that in getting data across systems, there would need to be another conversation with persons who have to go in a grab data to let us know what current systems can do.

The Executive Director recommended that the Board review the Kid's Dashboard and make recommendations to him on indicators to measure and he would find out who's the webmaster that maintains the Kid Dashboard and also he will discuss the concerns with the Cabinet's Secretaries.

Dr. Gilmore recapped on what was said and stated that everyone should visit the Kid's Dashboard and look at the indicators and see what may be missing and give their recommendations. He stated that he will have conversations with the Cabinet Secretaries and their designees to discuss the dashboard data. And, he will speak with their webmaster persons to help with thinking these issues through.

The Executive Director advised that the Children's Cabinet web page is being updated and there will be a link to the Governor's Website. He also briefly referenced the Governor's Executive Order put together by the transitional team which is calling the Children's Cabinet to be reengaged.

2015 Annual Report

Chairwoman, Cindy Bishop, did an overview of the 2015 Annual Report: 1. The roster which indicates who's on the Children's Cabinet 2. The Kids Dashboard which includes the following indicators: children in poverty, low birthrate babies, childhood obesity, immunization, asthma related hospitalizations, students who arrive in Kindergarten ready to learn, students who arrive in 4th grade on time and on level, students that graduate on time, youth placed in employment or education, youth obtainment of degree or certificate, child support collections, SNAP participation, absence of repeat child maltreatment, adjudicated youth under OJJ supervision, length of stay of nonsupport out of home placement and recidivism; and 3. 2014-2015 Children's Budget.

She stated that the budget lets us know what each department is spending/ investment as it relates to children.

Dr. Gilmore advised that he would request that the budget be presented at a joint committee presentation.

2014-2016 Strategic Direction

The 2014-2016 Strategic Directions was distributed. The Board recommended that changes be made to the document at the next meeting due to the document being outdated. Dr. Gilmore advised the Board that if they have any Strategic Direction ideas where the Board needs to go; then maybe at the next meeting they could focus on 2016-2019 goals.

2016 Policy and Programmatic

Chairperson, Cindy Bishop, discussed the value of having the Legislative Committee. She stated that there are 900 HB and several hundred Senate Bills, so there would be a great value on sharing information and collaboratively discussing what's out there and who's doing what. She presently is the chairperson for the committee; but is willing to let someone else take her place. Four persons volunteered to serve on the committee and those names are Kathleen Richey, Sherry Guarisco, Melanie Bronfin, Cindy Bishop, Makesha Judson and Amanda Brunson. Those bills that impact children and are a concern to the organization board members represent, should be given to the Legislative

Committee. The committee will serve as an information hub for legislation, authors, outcomes and impact of the legislation. . The committee plans to meet on a weekly basis, either face to face or via conference call.

The Board was allowed to inform group of any bills that they are proposing for regular session.

DCFS has 9 bills and if the board has any concerns with their bills then DCFS should be contacted for discussion.

LCCR- La. Justice Coalition had the following bills to help advance the Justice System: Senate 324 (raise the age La. Bill), 301, 302, 303 (Education Accountability Act, Fairness Juvenile Justice and Basic Accountability for data that concerns youth).

Another member advise that HB 833 by Representative Walt Leger follows up on the work of Senator Sharon Weston Broome around suspensions and expulsions (Dr. Gilmore advised that we are 200% above the national average on expulsions and suspensions and we have a parish that suspends more than 50% of kindergarteners). HB 402 (survey of adolescent's sexual health) gives the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Health and Hospital the ability to use the CDC guidelines on what questions to ask.

HB 726 at quick glance seems to eliminate the threshold of \$50,000 and under contracts.

Public had no other comments – meeting adjourned.