



Children's Cabinet

Executive Committee Minutes

July 12, 2016

Claiborne Building, Rm. 1-136

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Children's Cabinet Executive Director, Dr. James Gilmore, called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Dr. Gilmore began the meeting by asking everyone for a moment of silence before asking members and attendees around the room introduce themselves. Dr. Gilmore provided updates for the Advisory Board members, explaining that Christel Slaughter of SSA Consultants volunteered to facilitate discussion with the Board in order to formalize strategic directions.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Gilmore explained that the Governor's Office will be submitting an application to participate in the National Governor's Association of Parents and Children Thriving Together (PACTT), which is a two generation state policy network and a technical assistive initiative that provides guidance for states to advance their strategies pertaining to generational policy and system reform.

Another way of explaining the initiative is by asking, "What strategies can we develop to help both the parent and the child?"

Both the Governor and the Governor's Policy Advisory Board for Social Services has approved Dr. Gilmore writing the grant proposal, which involves a two year program worth \$100,000 that funds stipends and requires the coordination of state agencies as well as other groups who serve children and families. There is a quick turnaround for the application as it is due August 11, 2016.

Dr. Gilmore will be attending the Forum for Youth Investment conference at the end of the month to learn more about best practices for multi-agency coordination of services for children and families, and to also have the opportunity to network with other Cabinet directors across the nation.

Additional Updates:

The Raise the Age Commission, act 501 and SB324 that passed, places the Executive Directive of the Children's Cabinet as the chair of the commission that will help implement and monitor the law. Members are being identified to serve on the commission, and the first meeting must be called by October 1, 2016.

The list includes the following:

- All of the individuals on the JJIC Commission,
- Appointments from the Senate House of Representatives Rick Ward & Katrina Jackson
- Commissioner of the Division of Administration,
- A Representative from Southern University,
- A representative from the DA's Association
- A representative of the Public Defender's Office
- Two state judges
- Deputy Secretary of the Office of Juvenile Justice
- Superintendent of the state Dept. of Education
- Director of La. Sheriff's Association
- La. Juvenile Detention Association
- Representative and attorney appointed by the public defender
- Director of the Institute of Public Health and Justice
- Two youth advocates
- Two parents who have had children involved in the juvenile justice system
- Experts of Juvenile justice
- Two representatives who have been prosecuted at the age of 17
- A representative of the Police Jury Association
- An attorney appointed by the La. District Attorney Association

Dr. Gilmore emphasized that all members and stakeholders must work diligently to ensure the law is implemented with the best of intent.

Elections of Officers Discussion:

Cindy Bishop has been serving as the Chair of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. The Advisory Board would like to host elections for new officers in August, and members need to consider how they would like to serve in some capacity. The floor was open to comments regarding elections or the process:

Member, Carmen Weisner: In the past, we had a nominating committee who reached out to fellow members to see if they would be interested in serving.

Member, Sherry Guarisco: In the past, we have sought a chair that was not employed by a state agency due to the anticipation of a conflict that may arise, just for consideration.

The Executive Director advised that the Nominating Committee was a good idea and he would volunteer to serve on that committee and opened up the floor for comments from others who were considering serving on the committee.

Dr. Gilmore also advised that the Governor would be hosting the Children's Cabinet Meeting in September, and the Executive Director would like to showcase the successes the Board has had supporting the Governor and state agencies, as well as share progress the Board has made pertaining to the strategic directions that are embedded in the CCAB Strategic Plan.

Dr. Gilmore informed everyone that the Chair of the Advisory Board will also serve on the Children's Cabinet, so he would like to have this person appointed before the September's meeting.

2014-2016 Strategic Direction

Dr. Gilmore advised that he wanted to update the previous strategic directions and discuss plans for the next three years. One concern that was received by Dr. Gilmore via e-mail shared concern about the children aging out of foster care and the urgency of creating a solid transition system for those youth.

Christel Slaughter of SSA Consultants facilitated the strategic direction(s) discussions amongst Board members and attendees, and stated that her role was to help them share their ideas, identify areas of consensus, help them identify what they would like to accomplish in the next three years, and report the

information to staff. Members began the process by reviewing the mission statement and the purpose of the Children's Cabinet. Ms. Slaughter asked that members determine top priorities first, and then requested that members and stakeholders focus on key leverage points where they can make a difference. This provided the groundwork for members and stakeholders to break up into smaller discussion groups to explore these ideas even further with their fellow colleagues.

The 3 Strategic Directions on the handouts were as follows.

- To advise and assist the Children's Cabinet
- Coordinate agency resources provide linkages among agencies that serve children and families
- Develop policy and budget recommendations to address child and family issues

They decided to keep the 3 topics but change the content under each topic.

Sherry: Sherry reviewed the law establishing the Cabinet, and explained that the law clearly states the purpose of the Board is to provide information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups, service providers and parents. She advised that the Board was to advise the Cabinet and the Cabinet is to advise the Governor. She also advised that there should be an annual report to the Legislative Senate Committee Health and Welfare House Committee by January 31.

Kathleen: There is a gap between the Cabinet level and state operational level, and the Advisory Board should take on the role of filling that gap. She suggested that the Advisory Board could partner with existing community planning boards (which, in her opinion, are not being used effectively), so they can best coordinate services in the community.

Lynell Young: "The problem is funding and no consequences."

Ms. Lynell Young of LAPEN, recognized the hard work of the Children Trust Fund and the Advisory Board, and shared that her agency is now offering training at the end of this month pertaining to Triple P, the Positive Parent Program Training. The training provides important information to practitioners to conduct seminars for

parents on how to raise confident children. Ms. Young concluded by saying that LAPEN has partnered statewide with the Children's Coalition.

Ms. Slaughter asked each person to write down 3 ways that they would want to influence the state, Cabinet, and policy makers, and/or things they would like the Cabinet and Board to improve upon for the next 3 years. The written comments were collected and categorized while each person was being divided in one of the 5 discussion groups to discuss their thoughts.

At the end of the group discussion, Ms. Slaughter asked for group highlights. Some group highlights were: to look at metrics for the dashboard for data collection across state agencies, redefine the process for capturing federal and state dollars spent on children and present it to Senate Finance and Appropriation Committee every year, look at preventative approach to evaluate what preventative measures that can be promoted from 0-18, evaluate what children need to become self-sufficient & productive, update our legislative policy to look at what state agencies are mandated that are relevant to children and then re-evaluate what they are mandated to do, examine kids that falling through the cracks, coordination of services, no discriminatory practices for special groups, directory of state and non- profit services, centralized resources, address the needs of services by meeting the families where they are, develop indicators to determine if our mission is being met and have the Children's Cabinet meet and participate in accordance with the law,

The 3 items that each participant was asked to write down prior to the discussion groups were divided in the following categories: Aging out of foster care, mental health, eliminating waste, addressing poverty, children with disabilities' access to services, information about services offered, parental training, parental engagement, mental health, economic stability, human trafficking, juvenile justice reform and early childhood education.

Ms. Slaughter stated that all of the information discussed will be put into a one or two page document. She stated that after the election of officers at the next meeting, the group of representatives can work on structure, including the framework and agendas of future meetings.

Question posed by Ms. Slaughter to groups

Did anything come up in your group discussions that had to do with the “how” to implement programs?

Response 1: Getting back to the mission, I’m looking at what we want to have happen, and how do we do that? And how do we provide those recommendations to the Cabinet?

Response 2: Improving communication between the Advisory Board and the Children Cabinet.

Ms. Slaughter stated that a key to their success will be to figure out a way to become an indispensable resource to the Cabinet, they both be a provider of information that is good accurate on the ground throughout the State and also possibly disseminate.

Response 3: They discussed the importance of providing data to the Cabinet but it is also important to provide content and recommendations

Ms. Slaughter stated that she has seen effective groups; in this case, the Cabinet began to inspire the Cabinet about legislation.

Response 4: She sees the value of the group bringing the local up to the state level and working with the judges is important because they are ordering services.

Dr. Gilmore stated that Governor’s Office values the expertise that comes from the citizens in their respective communities, and further stressed the importance that he carry their message forward to his team.

Response 5: The Cabinet is only meeting once a year when it should be four times a year. Dr. Gilmore talked about possible having an Advisory Board Meeting one month and the following month, having a Children’s Cabinet Meeting to keep the Children’s Cabinet engaged.

Dr. Gilmore advised that he would form their written comments into a document to bring before the Advisory Board to edit and make additions before going forth with a final strategic direction document.

Public Comments

Dana Hunter with the Children's Trust Fund requested to partner with the Advisory Board with their "Prevent Child Abuse Campaign – Look Before You Lock" from July to the end of September. She gave packets to those who requested them to post the information in a visible place.

Meeting adjourned