

**Child**r**en’s Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting**

**Unapproved Minutes**

**January 11, 2022**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Member Name: Attendees**

Charles Coleman, M. D.

Kathy Coleman

 Jill Dyason .

Teresa Falgoust

Annette Fruge’

Julio Galan

Julie Foster Hagan

Angela Harris

Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, Ph.D.

Kimberly Hood

Ronald Johnson

Susan East-Nelson

Ashley Politz

Kathleen Stewart-Richey

Lakeisha W. Robertson

Kate M. Shipley

Marsha E. Shuler

Ernise Singleton

Stephanie Sterling

Karen Stubbs

Alishia Vallien

Michael Victorian

Kahree Wahid

Daniel Waldman, M.D.

Gina Womack

Lenell Young

**Staff:**

Dr. Melanie Washington, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director

Michele M. Rabalais, Children’s Cabinet Executive Assistant

**Welcome and Call to Order**:

Susan East-Nelson, Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all present at 10:02 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Assistant, called roll.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Julio Galan made a motion to approve the November 16, 2021 minutes. Michael Victoria seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**No Kid Hungry LA Update**: Rhonda Jackson presented the No Kid Hungry Louisiana update; The program was originally launched in New Orleans and is now statewide.

Ms. Jackson reported that in 2021 more than 280,000 children throughout the state struggled with food insecurity. No Kid Hungry focuses on helping families that are forced to choose between paying rent and buying food.

No Kid Hungry is the flagship campaign of the national anti-hunger organization, Share our Strength. The mission of Share our Strength is to end childhood hunger and poverty in the United States and abroad. No Kid Hungry Louisiana provides support through three different strategies:

1. School and community meals
2. Grants to community organizations and schools throughout the state.
3. Advocacy on the local and national levels

In addition, Ms. Jackson stated that No Kid Hungry is looking to expand partnerships with community organizations in the central and northern parts of Louisiana. Discussion followed.

**Feeding Louisiana Updates:** Korey Patty presented the Feeding Louisiana update. Mr. Patty stated that there is a State Association of Food Banks representing five food banks that serve all 64 parishes. The network operates through partners to feed those in need. In addition to putting meals on tables Feeding Louisiana is also involved in policy.

The Food Banks connect with children and families in need through schools, community centers, apartment complexes, etc. Discussion followed.

**Louisiana Budget Project Update:** Danny Mintz presented on behalf of the Louisiana Budget Project. Mr. Mintz reported that in 2020 one-in-seven households faced difficult situations and food insecurity issues due to the pandemic. One-in-five households with children reported not having enough food to eat pre-Omicron. As of December 2021, one-in-four households report not having enough food to eat. During this time many families were using tax family credits to purchase food.

Mr. Mintz stated that Omicron is forcing many parents off their jobs without pay. Single parents do not always have adequate child care. Winter break left students without access to school meals and families are being forced to spend more for meals that are not being provided by the schools.

PEBT is a cash grocery assistance benefit for children who receive free or reduced cost meals at schools. PEBT has not yet been approved for 2021-22 and may not be approved for some time.

It was also reported that FITAP benefits doubled but the program only served 2,889 children in December. There are approximately 140,000 children living in poverty. Mr. Mintz stated that it takes time to apply and receive benefits.

Loss of tax credit has also affected families. These credits were last distributed in December. Mr. Mintz stated that Louisiana is facing a significant child hunger crisis. Discussion followed. A copy of Mr. Mintz’s slideshow was emailed to CCAB members.

**Louisiana Crisis System Update**: Karen Stubbs, Assistant Secretary, Office of Behavioral Health, discussed the Louisiana Crisis Response System. The crisis response system has been in production for the past 18 – 24 months. Ms. Stubbs stated that providers have been identified and at first the provider pool will be limited. The first set of new crisis services will go live.

The Louisiana Department of Health began researching other states and models about two years ago and hired consultants to develop a continuum of crisis services. The department wants to build upon the strengths and resources of individual communities. The idea is to provide timely access to a continuum of services.

Four new crisis services that are Medicaid reimbursable have been developed initially for adults. These services include:

1. Mobile crisis response
2. Community brief crisis support
3. Behavioral health crisis care centers
4. Crisis Stabilization

Providers were selected through an application process and are currently undergoing training. Discussion followed.

**Other Updates**: Susan East-Nelson provided an update about the Data Committee. Ms. Nelson asked for suggestions as to who CCAB can get to spearhead efforts. It was stated that a person will be needed to collect data. It was discussed that CCAB use a series of interns as there is no funding for a permanent person. Discussion followed.

**Acknowledgement of Public and Public Comments:** None.

**Upcoming CCAB meetings:**

 March 15, 2022 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

May 10, 2022 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

July 12, 2022 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 13, 2022 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

November 15, 2022 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Adjourn**: Kahree Wahid made a motion to adjourn. Lenell Young seconded the motion. All approved. Motion adjourned.