



Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
November 19, 2024

Member Name: Attendees

Ursula Anderson	Kathy Coleman
Sherrard Crespo	Amy Dickson
Jen Firmin	Sarah Mulhearn for Julie Foster-Hagan
Sarah Hinshaw	Rebecca Hook
Amy Hook-Poirier	Sonia Mallett
Krystle Mitchell	Chenier Montz
Amanda Moody	Courtney Myers
Caroline Nailor-Oglesby	Susan East Nelson
ReShonn Saul	Ernise Singleton
Candace Weber for Libbie Sonnier	Karen Stubbs
Kahree Wahid	Angela Wiggins-Harris
Gina B. Womack	

Staff:

Jolie Williamson, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Michele M. Rabalais, Children's Cabinet Executive Assistant

Welcome and Call to Order:

ReShonn Saul, Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB), Chair called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

Roll Call:

Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Assistant, called roll.

Approval of Minutes:

Susan East Nelson made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the July 30, 2024 meeting which added information regarding the Vulnerable Youth Summit vote. Krystle Mitchell seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Susan East Nelson made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 24, 2024 meeting with Sarah Hinshaw's name corrected from Sarah Hinshaw-Fusilier to Sarah Hinshaw. Kahree Wahid seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Geaux Bags/ Geaux 4 Kids Project:

K.C. Kilpatrick-Baird, CNP, MSHA, Founder and Executive Director of the Geaux Bags/ Geaux 4 Kids Project, presented information regarding Geaux Bags to CCAB Members.

Ms. Kilpatrick-Baird began the organization as an independent, grassroots effort after becoming a foster parent in 2013, and discovering how stressful the initial 24 to 48 hours of receiving children into foster care were and how impossible it was to adequately prepare. She began purchasing supplies at her own expense and distributing supplies to the smallest victims of crime out of the trunk of her car.

Geaux Bags are filled with pajamas, toiletries and a comfort item to make that first night easier for everyone. These bags help both child and foster parent during the emergency transition by having the necessities and comfort items on hand.

In 2020 Geaux Bags was officially launched statewide in partnership with the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and the state Department of Children and Family Services.

Childcare Association of Louisiana (CCAL):

Cindy Bishop, Executive Director, presented information regarding the Childcare Association of Louisiana to CCAB Members.

The Child Care Association of Louisiana is a statewide, nonprofit advocacy organization that advocates on behalf of the childcare profession. CCAL represents over 3,500 childcare providers across the state of Louisiana.

Child Care Association of Louisiana is a statewide, professional membership organization comprised of early childhood providers, including licensed childcare centers, family day home providers and early childhood educators.

CCAL advocates for the sustainability of the childcare industry and promotes the critical importance of investing in early childhood education

Budget Recommendations:

Reshonn Saul, CCAB Chair. Presented the budget recommendations that were distributed to CCAB Members on September 24, 2024. Ms. Saul requested that subcommittees provide dollar amounts needed to fund their recommendations so the information can be added before submission of the report to the Children's Cabinet. In addition, Ms. Saul stated that the report needs to be turned in no later than December 15, 2024.

Early Childhood Experience:

1. The CCAB Infant & Early Childhood subcommittee recommends that the money that has been placed into the Early Childhood Supports & Services (ECSS) fund be appropriated to the Department of Health.
2. The CCAB IECMH subcommittee strongly recommends that the Louisiana Department of Health ensures that the ECSS funds are obligated before December 15, 2024 and thereby protected from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds sweep.
3. The CCAB IECMH subcommittee recommends that a study resolution be enacted to encourage the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a plan for long-term sustainable funding for ECSS, informed by the lessons learned from the implementation of the ECSS Early Adopter Site regarding scope of services and associated costs.

Susan East Nelson stated that at this time funds are not needed but they do need to be protected in order to continue.

Vulnerable Youth:

Prioritize funding for one-stop shops for children and families to receive wrap-around services with a focus on diverting children and families from juvenile, criminal, and child welfare system involvement.

Early Learning, Literacy and K-12:

1. Restore state funding for Louisiana's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to the FY 2024 level (\$87.7 million). This will result in another 720 young children accessing quality ECE and protect access for the more than 13,000 young children currently in high-quality birth-to-3-year-old CCAP programs. As of August 2024, there are more than 2,400 children on the waiting list for B-to-3 care and Louisiana families are unable to take part in the workforce.
2. Appropriate at least \$30 million to the Early Childhood Education (ECE Fund) to ensure revenue-generating local parishes receive their promised state match in 2025-2026. This will ensure the state does not default on its promise to parishes as well as incentivize local parish to continue local investment.
3. Continue state funding in the amount of \$5 million for the Steve Carter Tutoring Program. The Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program provides \$1,500 voucher to families of eligible school students. The program is part of the Louisiana Tutoring Initiative and is named after the late Baton Rouge State Representative Steve Carter and is a result of Act 415 of the 2021 Legislative Session.
4. Appropriate state funding in the amount of \$30 million for the Accelerate: High Dosage Tutoring Program. High Dosage Tutoring (HDT) is a research-based instructional model that explicitly addresses students' unfinished learning from core instruction and leverages extra time to prepare students for grade-level content in math and reading. Act 771 of the 2024 Louisiana Legislative Session requires school day embedded tutoring for certain Kindergarten through 5th-grade students.

Behavioral Health Services for Children K-12:

1. Approval of state plan amendment is needed to eliminate government red tape currently impeding local school district participation.
2. Amending the SPA to allow participation by children 0-3 years old, allowing health and behavioral issues to be addressed earlier.
3. Funding of a statewide electronic health record (EHR) system for all students that meets Louisiana privacy laws and ensures the required documentation is captured properly. This will also guarantee that a student's health record follows them throughout their educational journey. By phasing in a statewide unified electronic documentation system in schools, the reimbursement will be positively impacted in all schools in the state at the same time. To realize additional increases in reimbursement, the EHR can be scaled across the state upon completion of a pilot. This system will also support increasing regulatory compliance with Medicaid documentation requirements.

Ernise Singleton made a motion to table recommendations until the January 14th meeting. Ursula Anderson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Other Business:

ReShonn Saul informed CCAB members that as the CCAB Board Chair she serves as a representative on the Children's Cabinet. In order to continue to serve on the Children's Cabinet she needed CCAB support

Susan East Nelson made a motion to have ReShonn continue to serve as the representative from CCAB on the Children's Cabinet. Gina Womack seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Jolie Williamson, Children's Cabinet Executive Director addressed Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Members. Ms. Williamson will be sending out an anonymous Google survey to poll members to see where members foresee the CCAB, what speakers you would like to see and what you as a member would like to see happen.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: Susan East Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Chenier Montz seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.