

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

**Unapproved Minutes**

**November 16, 2021**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Member Name: Attendees**

R. Renee Antoine

Shana Beber

Charles Coleman, M.D.

Kathy Coleman

Gina E. Eubanks

Teresa Falgoust

Annette Fruge’

Julio Galan

Julie Foster Hagan

Angela Harris

Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, Ph.D.

Rhenda Hodnett

Susan East-Nelson

Kathleen Stewart-Richey

Lakeisha W. Robertson

Kate M. Shipley

Marsha E. Shuler

Ernise Singleton

Libbie Sonnier

Stephanie Sterling

Kristen Savicki (proxy *for Karen Stubbs)*

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 August 10, 2021 minutes. Kathleen Stewart-Richey stated that the minutes should be amended to show the date of the upcoming CCAB Meeting as November 16, 2021.

Julio Galan made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Lenell Young seconded the amended motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Introduction of Dr. Melanie Washington**: Susan East-Nelson, Board Chair, welcomed Dr. Melanie Washington as the new Executive Director of the Children’s Cabinet. In addition, Ms. Nelson thanked Dr. Dana Hunter for her years of service.

Dr. Washington introduced herself to CCAB Members and gave members information regarding her educational and work background.

**Nomination & Election of Officers:**

**Chair:** Kathleen Stewart-Richey nominated Susan East-Nelson to continue serving as CCAB Chair. Libbie Sonnier seconded the motion. Ms. Nelson accepted the nomination.

**Vice Chair**: Kathleen Stewart-Richey nominated Lenell Young to continue serving as CCAB Vice Chair. Gina Eubanks seconded the motion. Ms. Young accepted the nomination.

**Secretary**: Susan East-Nelson nominated Marsha Shuler to continue serving as CCAB Secretary. Kathleen Stewart-Richey seconded the motion. Ms. Shuler accepted the nomination.

Gina Eubanks made a motion to accept the nominations in globo. Dr. Rhenda Hodnett seconded the

motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**ALICE Report Update**: Sarah Berthelot presented an update to the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report. Ms. Berthelot stated that due to COVID it has become difficult to arrive at current figures. Discussion followed.

Copies of the ALICE Report will be distributed to CCAB Members.

**Together We Can Conference Report:** Susan Shaffette and Mark Harris presented the Together We Can Update. The Together We Can Conference (TWC) is held annually for professionals and volunteers that work together to make a difference for children who have been abused and/or neglected. TWC works to address the educational needs of Judges, Social Workers, Attorney’s, CASA Staff/Volunteers, Foster Parents Law Enforcement etc.

Ms. Shaffette reported a 13% increase in attendance over last year’s virtual event and a 24% increase over the last in person event. The conference included five keynotes and 10 rounds of six breakout sessions. Conference tracks included: legal, social work, foster/adoptive, CASA, kinship caregivers and general audience. The conference was approved for up to 21.75 hour of CEU’s as well as CLE’s. Discussion followed.

The next Together We Can Conference is scheduled for November 2-4, 2022. More information can be found at LATWC.org.

**Family First Update:** Dr. Rhenda Hodnett provided the Family First Update.

The Family First Act was signed into law in February 2018. One of its major objectives is reforming child welfare financing while providing a funding source for prevention. In addition, it seeks to improve the wellbeing of children already in care and emphasizes the need for children to be put in families.

A steering committee was developed to help implement the vision and the plan. Steering Committee members included agency staff, foster parents, universities, parents and youth who had experience in the system. In addition to the steering committee, there were work groups divided into three separate areas: Prevention services, residential redesign, and administration. Discussion followed.

Dr. Hodnett will send a copy of her Power Point Presentation to Susan East-Nelson for distribution.

**Acknowledgement of Public and Public Comments:**

Susan Shaffette, with the Pelican Center, reported that the Supreme Court is working with the Pelican Center to host a QRTP (Qualified Residential Treatment Program) Tool Kit and training that will be available on the Claro website ([www.CLAROLA.org](http://www.CLAROLA.org)).

The Toolkit explains the level of care settings available for children in State custody; QRTP requirements, timelines, and family engagement; court review processes, standards, and findings that must be met for QRTP placement; and how the required QRTP reviews and rulings fit into the existing court structure and statutory framework of Louisiana’s child welfare system.

Kathleen Richey requested more information regarding the newly formed Data Committee. Ms. Richey stated that the charge of the committee needs to be identified and begin moving forward. In addition, Ms. Richey stated that CCAB needs to coordinate the data that we have and create a data hub.

Discussion followed. CCAB Members felt that it was important that a data hub be available on the web-site along with ALICE info and Kids Count Data.

Any ideas for data that should be collected should be sent to either Susan East-Nelson, CCAB Chair or Dr. Melanie Washington, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director.

Susan East-Nelson stated that information and presentations will be distributed to CCAB Board Members.

Kathleen Stewart-Richey stated that Louisiana CASA offers monthly webinars the last Thursday of each month from 11:30 to 12:30. Topics include Keeping Children Safe On-Line, Developmental Milestones, Nurturing the Well-Being of Children and Strengthening Families.

**Upcoming CCAB meetings:**

January 11, 2022 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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**: Libbie Sonnier made a motion to adjourn. Kathleen Stewart-Richey seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.