

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

**Unapproved Minutes**

**September 24, 2024**

**Member Name: Attendees**

Ursula Anderson Shanna Beber

Connie Bellone Kathy Coleman

Sherrard Crespo Amy Dickson

Teresa Falgoust Julie Foster Hagan

Annette Fruge Sarah Hinshaw Fusilier

Amy Hook Poirier Krystle Mitchell

Amanda Moody Courtney Myers

Susan East Nelson Kathleen Richey

Cody Roi Karen Stubbs

Gina Womack Tangela Womack

Lenell Young Amber Blair

**Staff:**

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director

Michele M. Rabalais, Children’s Cabinet Executive Assistant

**Guests:**

Connie Bellone, Health and Education Alliance of Louisiana

**Welcome and Call to Order**:

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director, welcomed Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board members and guests and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introductions were made.

**Roll Call:**

Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Assistant, called roll.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Susan East Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2024 meeting as presented. Kathy Coleman seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Opening Address**:

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director provided the opening address. Ms. Williamson reported that the Children and Youth Planning Board (CYPB) workgroup is scheduled to meet after the Advisory Board Meeting.

Ms. Williamson also reported that there is a new website for the Governor’s Office of Children’s Programs. Information regarding the Children’s Cabinet and the Advisory Board as well as the Children’s Trust Fund and Louisiana Youth For Excellence (LYFE) program(s) are available on the website. In addition, resources for CYPBs are available on the website.

**Medicaid in Schools**:

Connie Bellone, CEO, Health and Education Alliance of Louisiana, provided information and an update concerning Medicaid in schools. The Health and Education Alliance of Louisiana (HEAL) mission is to get additional health care services to students so they can stay healthy and productive.

HEAL works to eliminate health and educational barriers for Louisiana students, support school districts with health care and academic needs of students in a financially sustainable way. This is done by providing the following services to schools:

1. Medicaid Program expertise
2. Strategic healthcare planning
3. Professional Development

Ms. Bellone stated that Louisiana only drew down .9% of federal Medicaid funds available for children in schools. The schools are doing the work, but Louisiana does not have the systems in place to demonstrate that the work is actually being done.

Ms. Bellone also informed CCAB Members that Medicaid in Schools is **not** the following:

1. Managed care Medicaid services in addition to their personal Medicaid health benefits
2. School Based Health Centers
3. Private Health/Related Service Providers
4. Private Mental Health Providers
5. Private Early Intervention Providers

Medicaid in Schools is cost reimbursement. Services that are Medicaid eligible include the following:

1. Coordination of care
2. PT, OT, Speech, Audiology
3. Nursing Services
4. Behavioral health services and therapy
5. Transportation
6. Personal care

Schools can contract with private providers on a fee for service basis.

Medicaid State Plan Amendment accomplished the following from a policy perspective:

1. Expanded eligible students to include all Medicaid eligible students with a plan of care and a medically necessary health need. The student no longer has to have an IEP, RTI, IFSP or a nursing plan of care to receive services.
2. Expanded services and providers and included personal care providers as well as ABA therapy.
3. Expanded authorizing documents beyond the IEP.

Discussion followed.

Joe Monsour, CEO, Allegiance Healthcare, LLC, spoke regarding Medicaid in schools. Mr. Monsour stated that there is a big disconnect as to what’s being done in the schools and what’s being done in the healthcare systems. Mr. Monsour further stated that children in the Medicaid population in grades K-12 do not have access to primary care simply because they do not know that the services are available therefore, they are not being properly diagnosed and documented. There is no continuity of care. Discussion followed.

Kathleen Stewart Richey stated that there needs to be some parent education as a part of this approach. Generally, parents of these children are overburdened, under resourced and under educated. Parents need to realize that just because the school nurse says the child is fine, they will not take the child to the doctor for their well visits. Discussion followed.

**CCAB Subcommittee Presentations**:

**Vulnerable Youth** – Michelle Gros was unavailable, but a copy of the Vulnerable Youth recommendations will be emailed to CCAB Members.

**Behavioral Health Service K-12** – Connie Bellone presented the Behavioral Health Services for Children K-12 recommendations. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Maximize Medicaid funding for schools.
2. Coordinate electronic health records.
3. Recommending state plan amendment to include children ages 0-3 and allowing behavioral health issues to be addressed earlier.
4. Removing barriers to access due to lack of transportation.

**Family Stability** - Report unavailable at this time.

**Early Childhood Experience –** Sarah Hinshaw-Fusilier presented the Early Childhood Experience funding recommendations. Dr. Fusilier stated that are requesting an extension of what the committee has been working on the last few years which is as follows:

1. Money that has been placed to fund ECSS be appropriated to fund Early Childhood Supports and Services
2. Louisiana Department of Health ensures that funds are obligated by December 15th, 2024.
3. Study resolution enacted to encourage the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a plan for long term sustainable funding for ECSS.

**Early Learning Literacy K-12 –** Shanna Beber presented on behalf of Libbie Sonnier. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Restore the $9 million dollar reduction in state funding for CCAP.
2. Appropriate $30 million to ECE fund
3. Continue funding for tutoring in the amount of $5 million dollars.
4. $30 million dollars for high dosage tutoring

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director, stated that the sub-committee recommendations will be combined into a report to be voted on at the November 19th CCAB meeting.

**Executive Committee Votes**:

Susan East Nelson nominated Amanda Moody for Vice Chair of the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB). Kathy Coleman seconded the nomination. Ms. Moody accepted the nomination.

A motion was made and seconded the motion to approve Amanda Moody as Vice Chair of CCAB. All approved. Motion carried.

**Other Business**:

Lenell Young respectfully declined her appointment to the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board but she will continue to work with the CCAB Board.

**Public Comments:** None

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