



Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

November 15, 2016

Louisiana State Capitol Press Room

Unapproved Minutes

11.15.16

Attendees:

Members:

Alfreda Bester
Cindy Bishop
Lynn Clark, Ph.D.
Shannon Roberts (on behalf of Gerralda Davis)
Gina E. Eubanks
Eric Griggs, M.D.
Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, Ph.D.
James Hussey, M.D.
Jennifer Karle
Beth Morgan
Sherry Guarisco
Dana Hunter, Ph.D.

Marsha Shuler
James A. Sprinkler
Ivy B. Starns
Jennifer Steel
Stephanie Sterling
Julie H. (on behalf of Mark Thomas)
Michael Victorian
Carmen Weisner
Gina Womack
Paul Carlsen, Ph.D.

Non-Members:

Ann Sprinkle
Stephen Phillippi
Richard Pittman
Cara Allison
Rob Carlisle
Kim Bigler
Kevin Clement

Jade Halliburton
Ashley Politz
Leslie Hill
Mary Norris
Latoya Butler
Melanie Bronfin
Michael Willis

Call to order:

Dr. Dana Hunter called the meeting to order and welcomed members at 10:09am.

Roll Call:

Dr. Dana Hunter asked Dr. James Gilmore to call roll. After the roll call concluded, Dr. Gilmore asked if there was anyone present whose name was not called, and there was no response. A quorum was present.

Executive Director's Report:

Dr. James Gilmore opened up the meeting by welcoming everyone again, and offered supplemental and additional documents to the members, and then to the public in attendance. Dr. Gilmore informed members and stakeholders that the Governor's Office recently held a GOV Talks session regarding our foster care system here in Louisiana, and it was very successful. He let members know that GOV Talks is a monthly session hosted by the Governor's Office, and a different topic is discussed every month. The Governor's Office recruits experts from our state agencies to come and discuss topics considered relevant and timely to both government officials and stakeholders. In light of the increase of funding to foster care youth that turned 18 while in foster care, it was very appropriate to host a foster care discussion.

Dr. Gilmore stated the Governor's Office had its first Raise the Age Commission meeting and it was well attended. Members and stakeholders were eager to discuss all of the opportunities created in implementing the Raise the Age Law, as well as challenges we must overcome. The committee has decided to organize working groups to frame up policy recommendations for the Governor and the legislature.

The Children's Cabinet held its first meeting and the Governor and First lady were both in attendance, as well as all of the cabinet secretaries. The Governor requested Superintendent John White to go back and explore ways to implement comprehensive sex education in schools. The Governor also charged his cabinet secretaries to be open, honest and vocal discussing budget matters and how it will impact children prior to implementing any budget cuts. Dr. Rebekah Gee requested the creation of an evidence-based practices data center to continue using proven practices in regards to children's services.

A resolution was passed to direct cabinet secretaries to work with Metanoia, which is a non-profit safe haven or home for survivors of human trafficking. The Department of Education (DOE), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have agreed to coordinate to make sure the safe haven is a success. The Catholic Dioceses raised \$2.5 million to build this safe haven, and the Governor wants the state agencies to provide assistance, regulatory management, and resources to ensure this is a success. They also agreed to assign a designee from each state agency to provide budget data. In the handouts Dr. Gilmore provided, he mentioned they would see the children's budget as well as the early childhood budget

In support of preventing child abuse, Dr. Gilmore has agreed to take \$1000 from the Children's Cabinet budget to purchase Darkness to Light materials every year for nonprofits to help prevent child abuse.

Dr. Gilmore asked members if any organization has any legislation they would like the Governor to support or to watch out for, to inform him as soon as possible because they are focusing on putting together legislative packages as a preparation plan for session. Dr. Hunter asked Dr. Gilmore to please send updates during the session. Beth T. Morgan talked about how one can track up to 50 bills for free on the legislative website.

Bylaws Discussion:

Dr. Hunter mentioned there were questions about the bylaws from members that attended the previous meeting, and if anyone had any additional suggestions, recommendations, or replacements to get those prepared. Dr. Gilmore went over the volunteers for the bylaws committee and named the following: Davondra Brown, Cindy Bishop, Gina Womack, and James Gilmore. Dr. Hunter thanked Carmen Weisner for finding the document containing the bylaws. Member Marsha Shuler reviewed the attendance language in regards to the bylaws and considered 1/3 of membership constituting a quorum to be "abominable." She also mentioned how she disliked that the bylaws can be amended by seven people and Dr. Gilmore stated that Marsha Shuler would be added to the bylaws committee.

Motion to amend the agenda to adopt the minutes was made by Carmen Weisner and seconded by Dr. Eric Griggs.

Motion to adopt minutes with changes was made by Gina Womack and seconded by James Sprinkle.

Election of Secretary

Dr. Hunter opened the floor for nominations to elect a Secretary. Jennifer Karle nominated herself. She was the only nomination and was approved by the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

Strategic Directions and Action Steps:

Dr. Hunter discussed the items which were on the strategic plan, and asked members to look at which items are needed for legislation, a policy change, or executive order. She told members to take some time to look over those items under the strategic directions 2016-2018 and mark what changes they would like to make, so the information can be compiled. The members decided by voting on the following items they would like to focus on in the next six months to a year:

ADVISE AND ASSIST THE CHILDREN'S CABINET

- 1) Identify and make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet.
- 2) Engage the Child Youth Planning Boards.
- 3) Make the Kids Dashboard a priority.

COORDINATE AGENCY RESOURCES

- 1) Provide greater access and availability of home, community, and support services for children with disabilities and more inclusive education opportunity for students with disabilities, and improve transitional services for children aging out of foster care.
- 2) Develop a youth services directory about programs that support youth across our state, and assess the needs services in rural communities and develop strategies to address those needs.

ADVISORY BOARD STRATEGIES

- 1) Develop policy recommendations for consideration by the Children's Cabinet

CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE GOALS

- 1) Address gaps in continuum of care 0-18 and continuity of services (aging out of foster care, family childcare homes, truancy prevention/intervention TASC)
- 2) Increase focus on family well-being
- 3) Support and access to behavioral and mental health services in early childhood/early intervention
- 4) Prevent child abuse and human trafficking
- 5) Increase access to adolescent reproductive health

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION GOALS

- 1) Increase Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funding, properly fund the LA-4 program, continue support of Early Head Start/ Head Start, build support networks to sustain quality, birth to 5 childcare, and increase/improve reading skills for low income and minority students. (
- 2) Review school discipline codes (includes trauma sensitive training).
- 3) Expand youth workforce development and entrepreneurship programs.

After the board selected the items they would like to focus on, Dr. Hunter announced members would self-select which subcommittees they would serve on in regards to the three following categories: advise and assist the Children's Cabinet; coordinate agency resources; and develop policy, program, and budget. Dr. Hunter stated the jobs of the subcommittee will be to look at defining goals, who is needed, what resources are needed, and what is a reasonable timeline to accomplish these goals. Beth Scalco asked Dr. Gilmore whether the committees and goals be selected through email, and Dr. Gilmore stated he would populate the goals based on priorities and then they could self-select.

Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Taskforce:

Carmen Weisner mentioned she appreciates youth aging out of foster care has come to the attention of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Carmen Weisner stated that in 2013 the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) eliminated the youth aging out program due to budget cuts. Many of the children who aged out of foster did not complete high school. Carmen further stated these youth are at the risk of homelessness, exploitation, unplanned pregnancies, and human trafficking. The task force is in the final stages of putting together our report for youth aging out of foster care. The report has to be turned into the legislature by February.

Bayou Health Transition Update:

The representative for Bayou health could not attend the meeting, so Dr. James Hussey said he would focus more on Coordinated System of Care (CSOC). Dr. Hussey gave a quick overview of CSOC and told the members that CSOC was implemented through managed care through Magellan, first in March of 2012. He stated it is a wrap-a-round program which treats kids with high complex needs and severe emotional disturbance. The goal of CSOC is to keep those kids from having to go in to residential levels of care and keep them in their own homes and communities to improve their clinical outcomes. CSOC is a family-driven youth-guided approach which works with child family teams and others providers coming together to determine the needs of the child's family. They also get waiver services such as youth support training and crisis stabilization. This model is to talk about philosophy of care. The total referrals for CSOC have been 11,633 kids, and the current enrollment is over 2,200 kids. A child must have a diagnosis in order to get into the program such as a mental disorder or otherwise specified. Dr. Hussey let members know that 72% of the children in the program have improved overall.

Announcements:

Dr. Gilmore stated that in June, the Governor signed an executive order creating the Interagency Council on Homelessness. In partnership with Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana Housing Cooperation, there's an 11.5 million grant to continue the good work on permanent supported housing and preventing homelessness.

Public Comments:

Kim Bigler stated she is the founder of James Storehouse, which is a resource center for kids and foster care, and talked about people in different organizations who want to help fill the role of the 2000 employees which DCFS lost. She stated they are in the process of working on a visitation center for kids in St. Tammany Parish. She also mentioned getting help for rural communities to make sure resources can get out there.

An attendee stated that the Rotary Club each year sponsors the Young Heroes. This is recognition of children across the state, grades 7-12th who have excelled in some way; taking recommendations. The actual recognition date is April 3rd.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alfreda Bester and seconded by Gina Eubanks.