**Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting**

**Unapproved Minutes**

**May 13, 2025**

**Member Name: Attendees**

Ursula Anderson Shanna Beber

Connie Bellone Sherrard Crespo

Dr. Amy Dickson Storm Ehlers

Teresa Falgoust Jim Garvey

Dr. Sarah Hinshaw Dr. Rebecca Hook

Brooke LaFleur Sonia Mallett

Krystle Mitchell Amanda Moody

Caroline Nailor-Oglesby Susan East Nelson

Karen Powell Kathleen Richey

ReShonn Saul Ernise Singleton

Dr. Libbie Sonnier Karen Stubbs

Christian Vige’ Angela Wiggins-Harris

**Staff:**

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director

Michele Rabalais, LCTF/CC Exec. Assistant

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:**

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

1. **Roll Call:**

Michele Rabalais-LCTF/CC Exec. Assistant

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 
   1. Request for amendments to minutes from last meeting held on March 11, 2025 to the following:
      1. Susan Dupont served as proxy for Dr. Singleton
   2. Pending changes, Susan Nelson motioned to approve minutes with amendment and Ursula Anderson seconded. All were in favor. Minutes approved with amendments.
2. **Salvation Army:**

Captain Bruce Williams of the Salvation Army in Lafayette, LA, recently addressed the board about the daily feeding program in the area. He highlighted the significant challenge faced by over 28,000 families, with 11% of them living just above the poverty line. The feeding program provides both lunch and dinner, serving more than 23,000 meals.

Captain Williams noted that the program is supported by $84,000 in grant funds and encouraged local elementary schools and other organizations to apply for funding. The grant headquarters, located in Jackson, MS, has provided financial support for the last 10 to 15 years. He has already identified two schools that could assist in hosting the program and emphasized the importance of making it accessible to Spanish-speaking families.

As he prepares for retirement, Captain Williams mentioned that Krystal Dupree would take over as the contact person for the program. Valerie Day, a board member from Lafayette, expressed her willingness to help connect local organizations to secure funding for the initiative.

1. **Louisiana Families for Vaccines:**

Dr. Jennifer Herricks delivered an insightful presentation on the critical role of vaccines for children and youth, highlighting that smallpox is the only disease eradicated through vaccination. She emphasized the significance of the measles vaccine, explaining that the virus can spread through the air from an infected person for up to two hours after they leave the area, putting unvaccinated individuals at considerable risk.

Dr. Herricks also reported concerning trends in Louisiana, where cases of pertussis have risen significantly, resulting in the tragic deaths of two infants in the past six months. She noted a decline in vaccination rates following the COVID-19 pandemic and urged attendees to check the LDA website for updated information on immunization rates in the state.

During the discussion, members raised questions about the vaccination status of children, suggesting that a systematic approach is needed to protect everyone, particularly in schools where families submit immunization forms. It was recommended that teachers and authorized personnel maintain awareness of which students are vaccinated.

In addressing protections for educators and those working with children, Dr. Herricks stressed the importance of ensuring that these individuals are vaccinated as well. She also pointed out that the CDC's vaccination schedule should be adhered to.

1. **Louisiana Youth for Excellence**

Dr. Amanda Shackleford, the Executive Director, presented details about a program designed to foster positive youth development and raise awareness of the consequences of at-risk behaviors among vulnerable youth, including those in foster care, poverty, and juvenile detention centers. This initiative is supported by a grant and involves 21 subgrantees throughout the state.

During the meeting, Dr. Shackleford and her team encouraged attendees to engage in a curriculum activity. She also announced that proposals would soon be accepted for additional programs to participate in this initiative. Reshonn highlighted the program's success with youth in FINS custody, sharing impactful testimonials from children who have benefited from the program.

1. **Other Business:**

The Solution Summit is scheduled for September 9, 2025, with the capacity to accommodate up to 400 attendees. A teacher leadership conference will kick off the Summit on June 12, 2025. Reshonn has informed members that subcommittees are required to meet before the end of June, as updates will be requested by August.

During the meeting, Jolie Williamson presented a signed proclamation from the governor, celebrating Cross-Agency Support for Children and Families. She expressed gratitude to those who wore red in recognition of the day and acknowledged the commitment of all members present. Jolie concluded by urging members to become actively involved in the subcommittees.

**IX. Public Comment:**

N/A

**X. Adjournment:**

Susan Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 pm. Connie seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.