



Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

December 10, 2019

State Capitol Press Room 4th Floor

Member Name: Attendees

Amanda Brunson	Annette Fruge
Sherry Guarisco	Libbie Sonnier-Netto
Ayn Stehr	Stephanie Sterling
Brittany Braun	Sue Catchings
Jill Dyason	Gina Eubanks
Rhenda Hodnett	Ashley Politz
Kathleen S. Richey	Katina Semien
Gina Womack	Lenell Young
Sarah Hinshaw-Fusilier	Mary Beth Scalco
Toni Bankston	Ronald Johnson
Reshonn Saul	Marsha Shuler

Non-Members: Guests

Steve Kaufman	Brenda Sharp
Korey Patty	Connie Bellone
Fiona Ritchey	Adrienne Huval
Melissa Campbell	Susan East-Nelson
Danny Mintz	Erin Brock
Karen Stubbs	Jodie Roberts
Tewabetch Negatu	Jill Slack
Pamela Allison	Charmaine Caccioppi
Clara Joseph	Kate Shipley
Cindy Bishop	

Welcome:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, welcomed members and guests to the December 10th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting.

Staff:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Michele M. Rabalais, Children's Cabinet Executive Assistant

Call to Order:

Sherry Guarisco, Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Chair, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Ms. Guarisco congratulated Sue Catchings and Julio Galan on recent awards they received.

Dr. Dana Hunter informed the Board that the United Way of Southeast Louisiana received a grant to support early care and early childhood through Entergy.

The Louisiana Department of Education also received a literacy grant in the amount of \$100 million for birth to grade 12 for five years. Louisiana is the only state to receive the grant for three consecutive periods.

Roll Call:

Michele M. Rabalais called roll.

Ms. Guarisco welcomed Brittany Braun, new CCAB Board Member representing the Department of Education

Approval of Minutes:

Sue Catchings made a motion to approve the October 15, 2019 minutes. Lenell Young seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Sue Catchings made a motion to approve the November 20, 2019 minutes. Ashley Politz seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Report on Sub-Committee specific Budget priorities:

Sherry Guarisco, CCAB Board Chair, stated that the law requires the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board to submit specific budget priorities affecting children and their families that are most urgently needed. The recommendations will be presented to the Children's Cabinet at the January 28th Meeting. Discussion followed.

Rhenda Hodnett stated that because of the Family First Legislation and the changes in the way federal funds are made available for various child welfare and related services, it is a critical time to see how federal funds can be leveraged across state departments. This legislation does, or has the potential to impact, at a minimum, the departments of Education, Health, Children and Family Services as well as the Office of Juvenile Justice. There is a strong emphasis being placed on prevention of foster care placement, and certain preventive services can be reimbursed at 50% through Title IV-E federal dollars. If out of home placement is necessary, home-based placement is preferred, and there will no longer be federal funding for foster children placed in non-medical group homes beyond 14 days. This creates a desperate need for more highly skilled and specialized foster families, especially for older youth, and the array of community based services needed to support them. It also authorizes a new level of care (Qualified Residential Treatment Facility) for children meeting specific criteria, that is funded by Title IV-E; however, the requirements will likely make this service considerably more expensive. Rhenda Hodnett reported that state funding will be needed to cover the loss of IV-E funding of non-medical group homes for DCFS and OJJ beginning October 2021, and/or the additional expense of specialized foster family or QRTP placement.

Specific Budget Priority Recommendations Fiscal Year 2020:

The following budget priority recommendations were presented to the Board. Discussion followed.

Increase access to quality early care and education for Louisiana's working families, especially for children under age 4 by funding the waitlist of ~3,000 children of low-income, working parents. Presently, quality child care is not accessible to many working parents. The cost of child care in Louisiana now exceeds \$7,500 a year. Less than 15% of low-income families with children under age four in the state can access any public funding for child care. Estimated cost: \$28,635, 136

Fund a statewide perinatal, infant and early childhood mental health consultation program that is available to all obstetric and pediatric healthcare providers in Louisiana. Obstetric, pediatric, and family medicine clinicians are in a prime position to support families' health through regularly scheduled appointments (15 for women in the perinatal period, 16 for children in the first five years of life). Estimated cost: \$3.1 million

Expansion of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Estimated cost: \$200,000

Increasing Food Bank Distributions Estimated cost: \$200,000

Children and Youth Planning Boards were intended to provide communities with a method to come together to identify the needs of youth and develop a strategic vision for how to serve youth and families. Presently, state funds have not been allocated to support these efforts. Estimated cost: No Dollar Amount associated at this time

Families First Act: providers must be sought out to provide a new service array including the recruitment of foster families for older youth and quality services in the home to aid in the success and retention of these families. Funds will be needed to support the strategic planning, as well as the development and recruitment of providers.

DCFS has received a proposal from Chapin Hall to provide guidance in assessing how Louisiana can best leverage federal funds in service to the children and families at risk of or currently being served by DCFS. Funds to cover this proposed scope of work as well as implementation of two small pilot programs (Healthy Family America Home Visiting Program for substance abusing parents and Youth Villages Intercept Program, an intensive, out of home prevention program) are being requested in DCFS' 2021 budget. (\$1.5M)

Kathleen Richey suggested that the workgroups meet again early in the year. Ms. Richey suggested that CCAB regroup and re-think the workgroups and look to see what is missing. Discussion followed.

Toni Bankston made a motion that all budget priorities be presented as a block rather than prioritize. Libbie Sonnier-Netto seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Next Steps: Budget priority recommendations will be presented to the Children's Cabinet at the upcoming January 28, 2020 meeting.

Other Business: A draft schedule of upcoming 2020 Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting(s) was distributed.

Public Comments:

No Public comments.

Upcoming CCAB meetings:

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

10:00 am – 12:00 pm (CCAB), State Capitol Press Room 4th Floor

Adjournment:

Libbie Sonnier-Netto made a motion to adjourn. Sue Catchings seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned.