



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PROGRAMS *and* PLANNING

CHILDREN'S CABINET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

February 2, 2018

Capitol Press Room – 4th Floor

Member Name: Attendees

Alfreda Tillman-Bester	Jennifer Karle
Melanie Bronfin, J.D.	Ashley Politz
Amanda Brunson	Kathleen Stewart Richey
Blair Edwards, J.D.	ReShonn Saul
Gina Eubanks	Marsha Shuler
Annette Fruge	Ernise Singleton, Ph.D.
Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier, Ph.D.	James Sprinkle
Sherry S. Guarisco	Ivy Starns
Rhenda Hodnett, Ph.D.	Mark A. Thomas
Glen Holt	Anitra Williams for Kahree Wahid
Dr. James Hussey	Melanie Washington
Ronald Johnson	

Non-Members: Guests

Rachel Gassert	Kevin Clement
Donald Songy	Barbara Goodson
Bambi Polotzola	Vanessa Williams
Lenell Young	Connie Bellare
Shanta Proctor	Richard Pittman
Robert Blue	Katy Walker
Brenda Sharp	Susan Berthelot
Melissa Campbell	James Hussey
Steve Kaufmann	Jodie Roberts
Charmaine Caccioppi	

Call to Order:

Ms. Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the February 2nd Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting. Ms. Guarisco stated that the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) is convened by statute to advise the Governor's Children's Cabinet and as such the CCAB is to speak on behalf of the 1.1 million children in the state under age 18. Together the voice of CCAB has the ability to craft the agenda for the children of our state. Louisiana ranks 48th yet again in the Kids Count data and Ms. Guarisco stated that the CCAB can change this.

Michele M. Rabalais, Children's Cabinet/Children's Trust Fund Executive Assistant called roll.

Ms. Guarisco called for a review of the agenda and minutes. Alfreda Tillman-Bester requested that the call to order date be changed to November 17, 2017. Marsha Shuler requested that the last paragraph on page two of the minutes be removed. Jennifer Karle made a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary amendments. Dr. Rhenda Hodnett seconded the motion. All approved.

Executive Directors Report:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, gave the following Children's Cabinet Update:

- a.) **Human Trafficking Regional Summits:** Governor and First Lady Edwards have been very passionate about issues regarding child abuse and neglect as well as human trafficking. The Children's Cabinet has tried to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking. The Children's Cabinet has been pushing forth an initiative to inform the public about the issue of human trafficking. The first annual Human Trafficking Symposium was held and followed by a statewide initiative that included regional human trafficking summits. Meetings were held statewide involving stakeholders, law enforcement etc. throughout the state. Summits in Lake Charles and Lafayette had to be rescheduled due to weather. Once all Regional Summits are complete a comprehensive report will be prepared using all the data to see what resources exist and what are the gaps.

All Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Members were invited to attend upcoming meetings to be held in Hammond, Houma, New Orleans, Lafayette and Lake Charles. An updated schedule will be sent out to all CCAB Members.

- b.) **Human Trafficking Prevention Commission/Commission Advisory Board:** Act 181 created the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Commission Advisory Board. The two bodies have been very active in meeting. They are looking at how trafficking can be prevented. Dr. Hunter will send out the upcoming schedule of meetings to all CCAB members who are welcome to attend.
- c.) **Raise the Age Commission/JDAI:** The Raise the Age Commission was established to look at supporting and implementing the law that was enacted to place 17 year olds in juvenile detention facilities as opposed to adult prisons. As of this date and time the law has not yet been able to be implemented due to budget constraints. The Commission continues to meet to work out kinks and see if the law can be implemented fully or needs to be modified. OJJ is currently facing a possible \$10 million budget cut to its current operating services which would almost wipe out probation and parole supervision. Discussion followed.

Rachel Gassert, LCCR, reported that at the last Commission meeting discussion was held as to how to work around the budget issues and how Raise the Age can be fully implemented this year. A joint signed letter was submitted to the legislature asking for full funding for the Raise the Age act.

JDAI, a group led by Opal West, has also been meeting to look at juvenile detention alternatives. There are other means instead of being sent to detention and alternatives are being researched. Five sites have made a commitment to providing these alternatives to youth and moving the youth through quickly.

- d.) **Annual Report:** Dr. Dana Hunter has been working on the 2017 Annual Report to summarize the collection of activities that went on throughout the year.

- e.) **LCTF Funding Opportunity**: The Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund has released its funding opportunity for the upcoming fiscal year and funding opportunities are available. Community based dollars funding are available to public and non-profit agencies statewide that have a mission of preventing child abuse and neglect.
- f.) **No Kid Hungry LA – Wal-Mart Partnership**: The No Kid Hungry initiative continues to successfully move along statewide. A meeting was held with statewide partners to see what needs to be done in year two to expand and keep the program going. Wal-Mart has an annual campaign entitled “Fight Hunger Spark Change” and the company is looking to partner with No Kid Hungry. The main goal of the Wal-Mart campaign is to raise funds for food banks across the nation that provide food to both children and their families. No Kid Hungry is also looking at better establishing partnerships with stakeholders that can be community sponsors for summer feeding at no cost. USDA provides reimbursement for any agency that is feeding/serving children during the summer.
- g.) **December 14, 2017 Children’s Cabinet Meeting**: CCAB sub-groups met for around six months discussing programmatic priorities that the CCAB found to be most important. The sub-groups presented their policy and programmatic recommendations to the Governor and First Lady as well as the Children’s Cabinet at the December 14, 2017 meeting. Discussion followed.

Alfreda Tillman-Bester requested further information regarding Amber Alerts and the Human Trafficking Summits. Ms. Bester asked if the Summits addressed adults and children or mainly just children. Dr. Hunter reported that Amber Alerts address both children and adults.

Overview of State’s Budget Crisis: Barbara Goodson, DOA deputy commissioner, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the state’s budget crisis. The presentation is available on-line.

Ms. Goodson reported on the fiscal cliff. Ms. Goodson stated that some \$1 billion in temporary taxes will expire June 30. She said unless they are replaced there will be deep budget cuts that will impact children and families. She said “the administration wants the legislature to approve revenue-raising measures that will provide budget stability. The DOA is not requesting increased taxes but that the legislature replaces the revenues expiring with non-temporary taxes. If the expiring tax funds are not reinstated or made permanent the state would face a \$1 billion shortfall in state revenues, translating to a loss of \$2.5 billion because of lost federal matching funds for health care programs.”

Ms. Goodson requested that all CCAB members reach out to their legislators to discuss raising revenues to address the shortfall. The loss of funding would result in layoffs, service reductions, business closings, etc. as well as loss of TOPS funding. It was also stated that approximately 50-60 percent of the state general fund cannot be cut. LDH and higher education will suffer the largest cuts which in turn will greatly affect the children and families in Louisiana. Discussion followed.

Links to Commissioner Dardenne’s presentation and budget along with supporting documentation will be emailed to all CCAB Members.

Dr. Dana Hunter suggested that CCAB members devise a set of talking points for individuals who will be impacted by upcoming legislation to use when speaking with their legislators and develop a consistent message.

Kathleen Stewart Richey made a motion to have the CCAB Legislative Committee meet to discuss and

to develop talking points and strategies regarding budget and later substantive legislative issues and a strategy for impacting for policy and decisions of the legislature. Ashley Politz seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

2018 Legislative Preview: Dr. Hunter reported that she is currently working with the Governor's office and DCFS on a draft resolution to extend the age of foster care till age 21.

Marsha Shuler stated that the deadline for pre-filing is March 2, 2018. Ms. Shuler also suggested that all CCAB Members should monitor the legislative web-site.

Sherry Guarisco informed the Board that the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families will once again be holding regional meetings throughout the state.

Other Business: Statutorily CCAB is required by law to provide recommendations to the Children's Cabinet in August. Ms. Guarisco requested that members think of what CCAB would like to propose to the Children's Cabinet. Discussion followed.

Sub-Committee Next Steps Discussions: It was proposed that sub-committees continue with priorities and work groups and continue to meet and give a progress report to the Children's Cabinet in August. Sherry Guarisco asked if the subcommittees covered all issues of concern and if not, what was missing. The lack of intervention services for children involved in domestic violence situations is a concern. Another issue is school safety. Discussion followed.

Public Comments:

Alfreda Tillman Bester reported that on Monday, Moral Monday will be coming to Louisiana at the State Capitol which consists of non-partisan clergy who are interested in bringing morality back.

Louisiana Center for Health Equity will be holding its Annual Health Care Summit on March 20th.

Dr. Shanta Proctor, Women's Services, stated that she will be sure to look into and address the issue of dating violence intervention and of domestic violence and how children are affected.

United Way of Southeast Louisiana will be hosting a seven-region forum on the state budget on February 6th.

LAFTA will be holding training on February 27th regarding the LGBTQ Community as well as Trauma and Care Assessment.

LA PEN Summit is scheduled for April 17th in Lafayette.

Child Well Being Summit will be held May 8th and 9th in Baton Rouge.

Family and Youth Counseling will hold their Connections Count Conference February 22-23, 2018 in Lake Charles.

Dr. Hunter stated that she attended the Governor's prayer breakfast and asked all CCAB members to please remember and keep all of our elected officials and leaders lifted in prayer and to keep one another lifted in prayer.

It was reported to the CCAB Board that Dr. James Hussey has been appointed as Medical director of the Office of Behavioral Health and Karen Stubbs will replace him as OBH assistant secretary.

Adjournment: Glen Holt made a motion to adjourn. Gina Eubanks seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Children's Cabinet meeting:

Tuesday, June 17, 2018 10:30 am -12:00 pm (CC) Capitol Press Room Room 4th Floor