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**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND PLANNING**

**CHILDREN’S CABINET**

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

**Unapproved Minutes**

**May 28, 2024**

**Member Name: Attendees Present**

Ursula Anderson Connie Bellone

Amanda Brunson Amy Dickson

Gina Eubanks Julie Foster Hagan

Annette Fruge Julio Galan

Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier Tonya Joiner

Krystle Mitchell Chenier Montz

Amanda Moody Courtney Myers

Susan East Nelson Lakeisha Robertson

Cody Roi Ernise Singleton, Ph.D.

Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D. Kahree Wahid

Angela Wiggins-Harris Lenell Young

**Proxies:**

Jamie Ridge for Shanna Beber

Amy Hock-Poirier for Brittany Cochran

Kristin Savicki for Karen Stubbs

**Staff:**

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director

Michele M. Rabalais, Children’s Cabinet Executive Assistant

**Guests:**

Michelle Gros

Sarah Berthelot

Sherrard Crespo

**Welcome and Call to Order**:

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director, called the meeting to order and all present were welcomed.

**Roll Call:**

Michele M. Rabalais, Children’s Cabinet, Executive Assistant, called roll.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Quorum not present.

**Opening Address**:

Jolie Williamson, Children’s Cabinet Executive Director, welcomed Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board Members, and gave an update of her activities.

**Vulnerable Youth Subcommittee:**

Michelle Gros will present an update at the July 30th Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting.

**Louisiana Association of United Ways and Via Link, Inc. 211/PCAL**:

Sarah Berthelot, President and CEO of Louisiana Association of United Ways presented the updated Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Report.

ALICE households earn above the Federal Poverty Level yet still struggle to afford basic expenses.

ALICE households:

\*Span all races, ages, ethnicities, and abilities, though households of color are disproportionately ALICE

\*Include workers whose wages cannot keep up with the rising cost of goods and services

\*Often include those who are working two or more jobs and still cannot pay their bills

\*Include family members who need care and assistance, which makes it harder for their caregivers to find adequate work.

\*Live paycheck to paycheck and are forced to make impossible choices: pay the rent or buy food, receive medical care or pay for childcare, pay utility bills or put gas in the car

\*Are part of every community nationwide

Sherrard Crespo, LCSW, Director of Outreach and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, presented an update on Via Link’s 211 and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana.

VIA Link provides services to the 2-1-1 network by phone and text (898211) for the following parishes: Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes.

By dialing 2-1-1 or texting 898211, callers can speak to one of VIA Links trained specialists who will help to identify what resources are available to address the needs of the caller.  VIA Link maintain a database of over 4,000 organizations that provide help with food, health care, housing and utilities payment assistance, employment services, veteran services, childcare, crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, and more.

In addition to 211 VIA Link also has the 988 line for suicide prevention. Callers do not have to have active thoughts of suicide to call 988. If a caller is feeling overwhelmed 988 staff if available for callers to have someone to talk to 24 hours a day.

Ms. Crespo also shared with CCAB Members that Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL) has now officially been chartered by Prevent Child Abuse America. Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana is housed by VIA LINK a Louisiana 501(c)3 non-profit.  Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana has a mission of providing 24/7 emotional support for families, connection to parenting resources, advocacy for children and families, and education for those who care for Louisiana’s children.

The new PCAL website is PreventChildAbuseLA.org. A list of trainings available through PCAL can be found by visiting the website. Discussion followed.

## Subcommittee Updates:

Jolie Williamson reported that a new subcommittee “Partners in Protecting Children” needs to be create as per Senate Bill No. 64/House Resolution No. 305.

Vulnerable Youth: Michelle Gros presented the Vulnerable Youth Subcommittee Update.

Ms. Gros stated that the Vulnerable Youth Subcommittee is currently working on the following:

\*Prioritizing, creating, and identifying positive opportunities and connections.

\*Removing barriers to access due to lack of transportation.

\*Increase in ungovernable youth. What supports and interventions are needed.

Behavioral Health Services for Children K-12: Marsha Shuler presented the Behavioral Health Services for Children K-12Subcommittee Update. Ms. Shuler stated that her subcommittee continues working on the following:

\*Medicaid in schools to help children in schools with behavioral health issues

\*Mental health access for younger children

\*Working on getting statistics to see what is going on in the classroom, what services are available and how to get more services in the schools.

\*Get schools to use Medicaid dollars and not one-time federal funds.

\*Adults that are no longer eligible for Medicaid or not requesting Medicaid for their children.

Early Childhood Experience: Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier Shuler presented the Early Childhood Experience Subcommittee Update. Dr. Fuselier reported that the Early Childhood Experience Subcommittee is mainly focused on continuing the sustainability efforts for ECSS and the RFP is out and due back June 13th.

Early Learning Literacy K-12: Libbie Sonnier informed CCAB members that her subcommittee has not met since session began but they will be meeting in either June or July.

Jolie Williamson reported that she recently met with Karen Evans of the New Orleans CYPB. Ms. Williamson has also been in contact with Anthony Celestine of the Calcasieu CYPB.

**Executive Committee Votes**: Tabled until July 30th meeting.

**Other Business**: No other business.

**Public Comments:** No public comments**.**