



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

**CHILDREN'S CABINET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

September 15, 2017

Claiborne Building – Thomas Jefferson Room 136 A&B

Member Name: Attendees

Alfreda Bester
Melanie Bronfin (represented by Mia Orr)
Amanda Brunson
Blair Edwards
Gina E. Eubanks
Dr. Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier
Sherry S. Guarisco
Dr. Rhenda Hodnett (represented by Christy Tate)
Glen Holt
Dr. James Hussey (represented by Dr. Kristin Savicki)
Jennifer Karle
Kathleen Stewart-Richey
Mary Beth Scalco (represented by Tammy Hall)
Marsha Shuler
James Sprinkle
Ivy B. Starns
Stephanie Sterling
Mark A. Thomas
Kahree A. Wahid
Juanita Washington
Gina L. Womack

Non-Members: Guests

Melissa Campbell
Ana Bales
Mia Orr
Truc Dinh
Richard Pittman
Valarie Laday
Sarah Parker
LaToya Butler
Bambi Polotzola
Sarah Berthelot
Damekia Morgan

Call to Order:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the September 15th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting. Introductions were made.

Dr. Hunter called for a review of the minutes and agenda. Marsha Shuler made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sherry S. Guarisco seconded the motion. All approved.

Executive Directors Report:

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

- a.) **Human Trafficking Symposium:** Dr. Hunter reported that to date the Human Trafficking Symposium has reached full capacity with 585 confirmed registrants. The Human Trafficking Symposium is scheduled to be held at BRCC in the Magnolia Theatre. Speakers at the symposium include a human trafficking survivor as well as human trafficking expert, Alliece Cole. The symposium will close with a panel that consists of providers across the state to discuss human trafficking.
- b.) **No Kid Hungry Louisiana Launch:** The launch of the "No Kid Hungry" Initiative will be held at Wildwood Elementary. Governor John Bel Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards along with other esteemed leaders will be attending. The program will allow students to have access to free breakfast and lunch regardless of household income.
- c.) **School Breakfast Challenge:** The Executive Director discussed the statewide "School Breakfast Challenge". Monetary rewards will be given to schools across the state with the highest percentage of breakfast participation in their schools.
- d.) **Human Trafficking Regional Summits:** The Children's Cabinet in conjunction with DCFS, Louisiana CAC's, State Police, HP Serve, Human Trafficking Commission and Judges statewide will conduct a series of regional trafficking summits. National experts from Amber Alerts will provide facilitators and other needs to do regional focus groups. Once the focus groups are complete, they will provide a report showing the landscape of Louisiana both regionally and statewide of what is happening regarding human trafficking in all areas of the state.
- e.) **Human Trafficking Prevention Commission:** The newly formed Human Trafficking Prevention Commission has already had two meetings and work has begun. The Commission is looking to do a strategic planning meeting at the next meeting. Senator Ronnie Johns is leading the effort.

The Executive Director also reported that she had the honor of attending the Early Childhood Policy Leadership Institute led by Dr. Charles Zeanah. The institute covered early childhood mental health, children receiving services and getting what they need as well as how experiences affect brain development.

Updates from Members: Sherry Guarisco reported that *Red Cross* came to the Louisiana Partnership Meeting and they are supporting the Partnership by helping childcare centers rebound post the 2016 flood. They selected twenty four type 3 centers to help.

James Sprinkle, Families Helping Families, reported that they have new wheelchairs available as well as inflatable mattresses for families in need.

Juanita Washington reported on changes to the Early Childhood Steps eligibility requirements. The process has been changed to reduce spending. Mark Thomas reported that the eligibility changes and requirements are due to

budget cuts. Services were not cut but the criteria were changed. The responsibility of the family is to pay a portion of the costs. If a family is unable to pay for 120 days services will be discontinued until payment has been made. It was also reported that the budget amount offset equals \$1 million dollars. It was also stated that this decrease will not impact federal dollars received. In actuality there was an increase in federal dollars.

Alfreda Bester reported that the NAACP will be holding their state conference next week in Baton Rouge. Relevant topics include: criminal justice, issues dealing with women and children, economic and criminalization policies, social policies etc. A health care forum will also be held. Eight hours of CLU's will be offered to attorney's who attend workshops that include professionalism and ethics

Judge Blair Edwards reported on Louisiana Fosters. The Louisiana Fosters initiative, an initiative of the First Lady in collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services, will seek to find new and better foster parents and will offer more support and education to foster parents as well as support to the children and the birth families. The web-site is www.louisianafosters.la.gov. The mission of Louisiana Fosters is to mobilize, encourage and inspire faith, nonprofit, business and service communities to partner with government to bolster the support for foster children and their caregivers in Louisiana.

Sub-Committee Discussions: Dr. Hunter stated that sub-committee groups continue to meet in their various sub-areas. The CCAB has only one more meeting before making their presentations to the Children's Cabinet. Each group will have approximately seven (7) minutes to present and give an overview of what the groups have discussed and what the top two or three recommendations the group has decided to pursue.

At this time the Sub-Committees broke up to discuss their recommendations.

Nominations for Chair: The Executive Director requested that CCAB members send in recommendations for Board Chair via e-mail. Once a list of names is received Dr. Hunter will bring the names to the Board at the next meeting for a vote. A list of CCAB Members will be e-mailed to all Board members.

Public Comments: Ana Bales, LDH/OPH/BFH, distributed copies of the Early Childhood Risk and Reach in Louisiana report. Additional copies can be sent out by contacting Ms. Bales at Ana.Bales@LA.GOV.

Sarah Parker, LYFE, Program Manager/Outreach Coordinator, reported that the LYFE program is now accepting applications from eligible organizations to provide abstinence-centric education opportunities to Louisiana youth between the ages of 12-19. The grant application process is open to 501c3 programs, community programs, churches, schools etc. The deadline for submission is December 15, 2017. Please submit any questions relative to this funding opportunity to Ms. Parker at sarah.parker@la.gov.

Adjournment

Next CCAB meeting:

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

10:30 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)

Thomas Jefferson 1-136 A&B

Next Children's Cabinet meeting:

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

10:00 am -11:30 am (CC)

Capitol Press Room Room 4th Floor