

Louisiana Children's Trust Fund BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2024

ATTENDANTS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Louisiana Bar Association
Christie Hitchens, NASW LA
Rev. Mary Moss, Religious Community
Yolanda Motley, Early Childhood Education
Jolie Williamson, Children's Cabinet

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Angela Bridgewater, DPS&C Office of Juvenile Justice
Brittany Cochran, Department of Education
Dr. Alicia Kober, LA State Medical Society
Tamara Foster-Montgomery, University Community

ZOOM:

Amanda Brunson, DCFS/Child Welfare
Judge Ree Casey Jones, Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Dr. Kim Sherman, Louisiana Psychological Association

GUESTS

Tressa Dunbar
Amanda Shackelford
Kenneth Motley
Beverly Rabalais
Brook Batiste
Tara Boudreaux
Marco Allen

STAFF

Ursula Anderson, Executive Director
Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

Ursula Anderson, CTF Executive Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed Board Members and guests.

ROLL CALL: Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Francesca Hamilton-Acker, CTF Board Chair, introduced Ursula Anderson as the new LCTF Executive Director and provided a brief bio.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:

A quorum was not present to approve the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Executive Director presented the Financial Report as of February 2024 and copies were distributed to Board Members. The LCTF Executive Director reported that the Trust Fund has approximately \$1.5 million to distribute to potential grantees. In addition, the Executive Director reported that there has been a decrease in duplicate birth certificate fees. Discussion followed.

A quorum was not present to approve the Financial Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Francesca Hamilton-Acker, Board Chair, presented the Chairman's Report. The report included the following:

- Guiding new LCTF Executive Director, Ursula Anderson & Children's Cabinet Executive Director, Jolie Williamson through the transition
- Discussed the 'Know Before You Go' and 'Look Before You Lock' campaign(s)
- Board reappointments
- Work on the 2025-2030 Louisiana Caucus for Children/State Plan will begin in July.
- New coloring books are being designed focusing on bullying, stranger danger, etc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ursula Anderson, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director's report.

Information included in the report is as follows:

- Attended Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meetings
- Attended Children's Cabinet Meeting
- Coffee and Conversations speaker series continues.
- Conducted Grant Review Training(s)
- 2025-2030 State Plan
- Worked on the upcoming Child Abuse Prevention Conference
- Attended the Connections Count Conference in Lake Charles
- Visited the Family and Youth Counseling Agency
- Met with Cindy Bishop, Executive Director, Child Care Association of Louisiana

Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024-25 FY GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT:

Yolanda Motley presented the Grant Review Committee Report. Ms. Motley reported that 80 program applications were received totaling \$3,627,112.37. 9 Event/Conference applications were received totaling \$276,970.79.

A copy of the Grant Review Committee recommendations was distributed to Board Members. The Grant Review Committee is recommending funding for 65 out of the 80 applications received at a total of \$1,373,750. The Committee also recommends that 9 out of the 9 Event/Conference applications be funded at a total of \$144,985. The total of funding recommended is \$1,518,735. Discussion followed.

BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS:

Letters from appointing agencies/organizations are needed from Board Members whose terms have expired.

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT:

A copy of the 2022-23 LCTF Annual Report that was prepared by LSU SREC was distributed to CTF Board Members.

2025-2030 LOUISIANA CAUCUS/STATE PLAN:

Work will begin in July for the 2025-2030 LCTF State Plan. The theme of the state plan will be 'Louisiana Caucus for Children'. Ursula Anderson, LCTF Executive Director and Jolie Williamson, Director of Community Programs will travel the state along with Susan Shaffette to meet with stakeholders statewide. Discussion followed.

BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE:

May 20, 12-2 p.m., 1-141 Colorado Room
August 28 (LCTF Grantee Meeting, WBR Conference Center)
December 2, 12-2 p.m., 1-141 Colorado Room

OLD BUSINESS:

LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CONFERENCE:

The LCTF Child Abuse Prevention Conference is scheduled to be held at the Cajun Dome Conference Center in Lafayette on April 22, 2024. Registration is open and a copy of the brochure was distributed to Board Members. All Board Members are encouraged and invited to attend. Please let Michele M. Rabalais know if you are interested in attending via email: Michele.Rabalais@la.gov.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS:

Susan Shaffette is in the process of acquiring speakers for Coffee and Conversations and obtaining CEU credits for participants.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments

NEXT MEETING: May 20, 2024