



Children's Cabinet Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
Tuesday, January 28, 2020
State Capitol Press Room 4th Floor

Member Name: Attendees

Donald M. Pierson, Jr.
James K. Bueche Jr., Ph.D.
Ava Dejoie
Kathleen Stewart-Richey
Marketa G. Walters
Rebekah E. Gee, M.D.

Non-Members: Guests

Faith Boudreaux	Beth Morgan
Michelle Oros	Shavia Scott
Erin Brock	Katina Semien, JD
Renee Antione	Jackson Wright
Fiona Ritchey	Lenell Young
Janie Haynes	Aiden Morse
Karen Powell	Nithya Ravindran
Libbie Sonnier-Netto, Ph.D.	Bonnie Riley
Mary Moss	Rob Carlisle
Joelle Henderson	Amanda Brunson
Lynn Clark, Ph.D.	Brenda Sharp
Sherry Guarisco	Stephen Phillips
Stephen Kauffman	Melanie Washington
Jodie Roberts	Daniel Mintz, Ph.D.
Kuala C. Chambers	Mickey Smith
Chandra Goodwin for Senator Regina Barrow	

Welcome:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director, welcomed members and guests to the January 28, 2020 Children's Cabinet Meeting.

Staff:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Michele Rabalais, LCTF/CC Exec. Assistant

Call to Order:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Roll Call: Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Assistant, called roll.

Opening Remarks:

Governor John Bel Edwards provided opening remarks. Governor Edwards thanked the members of the Children's Cabinet for making such a tremendous difference in the lives of Louisiana's family and children during a time of budget deficits and rebuilding.

Governor Edwards reported that First Lady Edwards' initiative, Louisiana Fosters, set multiple records of children being adopted out of foster care. There has also been an increase in reuniting children with their birth families. The First Lady also continues to work with the fight against Human Trafficking and the victims of Human Trafficking.

Governor Edwards also reported that there was a significant investment of \$20 million dollars into Early Childhood Education along with an \$11 million grant that Louisiana will receive over the next three years. The Governor is hoping to get to an \$86 million investment.

In addition, the Governor thanked First Lady Edwards along with cabinet members for their work in nutrition for the many children who are food insecure. Work will continue with the summer feeding program, Share our Strength and No Kid Hungry to ensure no child goes hungry.

Budget recommendations from the Children's Cabinet have been received by the Governor. The Governor stated that his office is pursuing having a permanent member of his office whose focus is on children. A federal grant has been received to cover the first three years. As of this time the Governor stated that we do not have an official forecast of revenue to base our budget. The Revenue Estimating Committee will be meeting soon to discuss funds available.

Governor Edwards introduced special guest, Mickey Smith Jr., Grammy for Music Education Award winner who is a music teacher at Maplewood Middle School in Sulphur, Louisiana. Mr. Smith was presented with a certificate of achievement by Governor Edwards.

CCAB Budget Priorities Overview:

A list of CCAB Priorities/Recommendations was distributed to members of the Children's Cabinet.

The Budget Priorities were presented by Kathleen Stewart-Richey, CCAB Chair, and are as follows:

Early Childhood Mental Health:

Fund a statewide perinatal, infant and early childhood mental health consultation program that is available to all obstetric and pediatric health care providers in Louisiana.

To facilitate effective collaboration across health and education sectors to maximize the sharing of resources, the CCAB recommends the inclusion of a Young Child Well-Being Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office. The anticipated annual salary of the Policy Advisor is \$100,000 that would likely be paid through a grant for the first three years.

Estimated cost: Approximately \$3.4 million

Early Learning Literacy and K-12:

Increase access to quality early care and education for Louisiana's working families, especially for children under age 4 by funding the waitlist of 3000 children. (\$25,135,136)

Provide annual investment in the Ready Start Networks (established in Act 639, 2018 Session) in developing expanded local governance including the capacity to raise local funds to support early education. (\$2,500,000, calculated at \$100,000 per year for 25 Ready Start networks)

Fund Family Support services for all families focused on their children's educational development, whether at home, in a licensed center or in prekindergarten, as recommended by the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission. (\$1,000,000)

Estimated Cost: \$28,635,136

Childhood Hunger and Family Stability:

Fund expansion of the Summer Food Service Program through grants to summer meal sites and sponsors in need of extra support to start up or expand programs in high need areas, ultimately providing more meals to food-insecure children at risk of hunger during the summer. (\$200,000)

Increase number of children served through state food bank network. Existing children's programs include school pantries, weekend backpack programs, and summer meals, reaching more than 8,400 food-insecure children across the state. (\$200,000)

Estimated Cost: \$400,000

Vulnerable Youth:

Funding for strategic planning for implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Act, including recruitment of foster families as state Department of Children and Family Services for its October 2021 launch.

Estimated Cost: \$390,000

Discussion followed regarding the Budget Priorities/Recommendations submitted by the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

Areas of Focus & Budget Priorities for 2020:

Children's Cabinet members presented information regarding budget priorities.

Sec. Marketa Walters thanked Mr. Mickey Smith, musical guest and offered him the opportunity to speak to foster youth.

DCFS priorities presented by Secretary Marketa Walters:

1. Stabilize needs at DCFS. Currently there are 500 fewer employees than at the end of Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration. The staffing shortage comes at a time when the number of foster children has increased and even more kids are being worked with as the foster care age has increased. Not having adequate staff hurts when it comes to helping children in need. For example, going in front of a judge to explain what is going on in a child's family.
2. Shift TANF funds out of paying for child abuse investigations and replace with state general fund dollars so TANF funds can be spent the way they are meant.

ATC presented by Commissioner Juana Lombard:

1. Should support a bill that would allow for increased penalties for selling vape products to minors.
2. Human Trafficking- shifting focus towards victims and potential victims. Presentations are being made to faith based communities, schools, children and youth groups. ATC is trying to get ahead of potential victims. Requesting more positions so that the Human trafficking task force can be dedicated full time to trafficking.

First Lady Edwards informed ATC that Lake Charles and Shreveport have groups evolving against Human Trafficking.

LED:

1. No direct legislative lifts focused specifically on children.
2. Will lend to support to other agencies.

Juvenile Justice presented by Dr. James Bueche Jr.:

1. Main priority is moving forward with Phase 2 of Raise the Age which will kick in July 1, 2020.
2. Dr. Bueche stated that additional staff is needed to deal with additional children coming in.
3. Justice Reinvestment Funds for community-based prevention-diversion programs are expected.
4. Efforts are underway toward the replacement of Swanson and Bridge City youth centers.

LDH: Mark Thomas:

1. Statewide Perinatal and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program. One in seven women experience perinatal depression. 10-20% of children ages 0-5 experience diagnosable mental health conditions. Priority around \$3 million with about half of it to match from Medicaid.
2. Full implementation of TEFRA allows families of disabled children to receive Medicaid (\$9 million cost), which is on target for a January 2021 start.
3. Early Steps- there has been a significant increase as a result of more moms giving birth to opioid addicted babies. It is mandatory for medical staff to report.
4. Continue focus on reducing maternal mortality
5. Waivers-need better outcomes such as children's choice waiver services.
6. Community health programs: many of the issues that are impacting overall health outcomes for individuals and their families are listed that LDH would like to address:
 - transportation
 - education
 - food

Data is being collected to assist others to focus on the issue and figure out how to redirect dollars.

DOA was presented by Marsha Shuler:

1. Developing the budget
2. Early childhood education is its priority.

CCAB: Dr. Dana Hunter:

1. La Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative has been launched.
2. MDT's to help identify victims of Human trafficking and possible victims.
3. LDH will be working closely with Faith Boudreaux to get school based health centers staff trained.
4. Risk Screening identity tool will train group in how to identify victims and at-risk children who are at high risk of becoming victims.
5. Funds to pay partners with regional coordinators-fund every resource needed and build on line data base.
6. Research partner will work closely with the seven hired Human Trafficking Regional Coordinators to find out every resource in every community to assist victims of Human Trafficking.

La Workforce Commission:

1. Secretary wants Increase JAG funding by 100%
2. Increase apprenticeships and apprenticeship programs.
3. Increase the state's minimum wage and achieve pay equity.

ATC is also visiting worksites for inspections to make sure workers are properly documenting and are properly being paid. They are also looking for workers who are being trafficked. Discussion followed.

Louisiana Workforce and DCFS are helping train and prepare foster youth who are 18-21 years old for the work force.

Dr. Hunter informed the Board that Chandra Goodwin is now working for and representing Senator Barrow. Ms. Goodwin reported that Senator Barrow's main concern is women and children and early childhood education.

Pastor Mary Moss-Community Stakeholder:

1. Pastor Moss stated that the home situation does not receive enough funding and that more attention should be given to the home. Children have to go into the environment from the home environment. Discussion followed.

Dr. Dana Hunter reported that the Raise the Age Commission will be meeting soon.

Governor Edwards framed his inauguration speech around family. Every baby deserves a family that is earning a living wage. Work needs to continue to make sure that all parents are mentally and physically stable.

Map service can help to find gaps and identify services to fill the needs.

LCTF Contract Approval Request:

Katina Semien presented and discussed the My Community Cares Grant application that was received. Ms. Semien stated that special programs that were not reached under the grant application have special funds set aside each year for programs that the LCTF Board and Children's Cabinet see fit to fund. Discussion followed.

A quorum was not present to approve the request as presented. As it stands the law does not allow for a proxy to vote. The Children's Cabinet will look at amending the law to allow a Cabinet member or their designated proxy to vote.

A vote to approve the LCTF Contract Approval request will be held at the upcoming Governor's Cabinet Meeting.

Katina said the CTF grant process is open for FY20-21 and applications are due by Friday, February 28th, 2020.

Other Business

No other business.

Public Comments

No Public comments.

Adjournment

There was a motion and a second motion to adjourn.