



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND PLANNING
CHILDREN'S CABINET

CHILDREN'S CABINET BOARD MEETING

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

June 25, 2019

State Capitol Press Room

4th Floor

Cabinet Members/Representatives Attendees:

Deputy Secretary Office of Juvenile Justice Dr. James Bueche, Jr.

Judge Desiree Cook Calvin

Secretary Dept. Children Family Services Marketa Walters (Represented by Rhenda Hodnett)

Secretary La Dept. of Health Dr. Rebekah Gee (Represented by Mark Thomas)

Superintendent John C. White Dept. of Education (Represented by Erin Bendily)

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Chair Sherry Guarisco

Secretary La Economic Development Donald Pierson, Jr. (Represented by Daniel McConnell)

Secretary La Workforce Commission Ava Dejoie (Represented by Kenneth Burrell)

Cabinet Members Not Represented:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter

Senator Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb

BESE Board Member Kathy Edmonston

Commissioner of Administration, John L."Jay" Dardenne, Jr.

Call to Order:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed First Lady Donna Edwards, as well as Children's Cabinet members and guests to the June 25, 2019 Children's Cabinet Board Meeting.

Roll Call:

Roll call was conducted by Michele M. Rabalais.

Opening Remarks: First Lady Donna Edwards provided the opening remarks, Governor John Bel Edwards joined the opening of the meeting by phone and provided remarks to the Cabinet and members of the public. The First Lady welcomed Cabinet Members and thanked cabinet members for their hard work and participation.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Hunter, called for a review of the minutes and agenda and asked for a motion to approve. Minutes for March 12, 2019 were approved and seconded.



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Legislative Reflections and Successes:

Louisiana Department of Health

- 1.) Early Steps received an additional \$1 million in funding
- 2.) TEFRA is a Medicaid State Plan Option that would give children with developmental disabilities basic Medicaid coverage, regardless of their parents' income. These children must meet Louisiana's definition of institutional level of care.
- 3.) HB336 - Exempts certain school-based behavioral health service providers from the Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law
- 4.) Louisiana Special Education Center that was previously operated by the Department of Education has been moved to the Louisiana Department of Health

Office of Juvenile Justice

- 1) Received full funding for Acadiana Center for Youth
 - a. 3 dorms open
 - b. Ready to open to full capacity
- 2) HB2 – replace facility in Monroe and Bridge City – waiting for authority to sell bonds
- 3) Raise the Age was implemented March 1st for non-violent offenders. 72 children placed. Violent offenders will be placed starting July, 2020

La Workforce Commission

- 1) Rehab services – anyone with disabilities can get modifications to vehicles, help with job training etc.
- 2) Twenty-nine (29) more counselors were hired
- 3) Helped stop passage of HB64 which would have allowed children 18 years and younger to work 8 hours without a break

Dept. of Education

- 1) Teacher pay raises were approved
- 2) Early childcare- Additional funds were appropriated for early childcare, including increasing the reimbursement rate for early childcare providers, and reducing the waiting list by 1,400 for those in need of financial assistance with childcare. There is still a waiting list. DOE incurred \$800,000 in budget cuts
- 3) Special School District short \$450,000 - - what can be done so no child goes without services.
- 4) Student fees – DOE is working on student fees for low income families. Task Force was convened and a report completed.
- 5) Board of Regents – maximize last two years of high school; would like to guarantee dual enrollment in at least two classes
- 6) Every local school board has to establish a council for parents of children with special needs
- 7) Laws passed for behavioral analysis in schools
- 8) Schools identified as in need of academic improvement must meet with parents concerning an improvement plan.

La Economic Development

No report.



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Department of Children and Family Services

- 1) Age of foster care raised to 21
- 2) SB 145/ACT 409 Create a coalition to develop a human trafficking victim services delivery model.
- 3) HB 112 – aligns state law with federal law – gives DCFS the discretion to waive criminal history
- 4) Increase in funding for IT and new state of the art computer systems.

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board

- 1) Raise the Age law for Foster Youth passed
- 2) DCFS – fully funded
- 3) Early Childhood funding
- 4) Items not addressed:
 - a. Focus on infant mental health

Alcohol and Tobacco Control

- 1) Created a Human Trafficking Task Force that will be expanded statewide

Other Business:

Public Comments:

Schedule of Upcoming 2019 Meetings:

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

State Capitol Press Room 4th Floor

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: September 17, 2019
Capitol Press Room, 4th Floor