



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

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

August 17, 2018

Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room 136 A-B

Member Name: Attendees

Alfreda Tillman-Bester	Kelly Lynn Pepper
Melanie Bronfin	Mary Beth Scalco
Amanda Brunson	Katina Semien
Sue Catchings	Marsha Shuler
Gina Eubanks	Kathleen Stewart-Richey
Sherry S. Guarisco	Stephanie Sterling
Sarah Hinshaw Fuselier, Ph.D.	Beth Touchet-Morgan
Rhenda Hodnett	Kahree Wahid
Kristin Savicki for Dr. James Hussey	Melanie Washington
Jennifer Karle	Gina L. Womack

Non-Members: Guests

Teresa Falgoust	Ana Bales
Faith Boudreaux	Taryn C. Branson
Donald Songy	Matthew Wallace
Jeanie Donovan	Sarah Berthelot
Melissa Campbell	Bambi Polotzola
Susan East Nelson	Laci Polotzola
Valarie Laday	Beth Morgan
Donna Buuck	Charmaine Caccioppi
Katy Walker	Connie Bellone
Steve Kaufman	Rebecca Gurvich Roques
Lenell Young	

Staff:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Stephanie Neal, LYFE

Call to Order:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the August 17th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting.

Stephanie Neal called roll.

Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, called for a review of the agenda and minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Guests and members were invited to introduce themselves.

Executive Director's Report:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director, presented a brief Children's Cabinet Update. Dr. Dana Hunter stated that Teresa Falgoust will be presenting information regarding Kids Count to the Children's Cabinet as well as the Governor and First Lady at the September 11th Children's Cabinet Meeting with Department Secretary's to start the conversation as to how do we move forward.

Dr. Hunter reported that she was recently in Annapolis, MD to attend a State Children's Cabinet Network Meeting. Information was shared at the meeting including talk about evidence based programs that address the whole family, as well as grant opportunities that are available for state agencies etc. This information will be passed along as it becomes available.

In addition Dr. Hunter informed the CCAB that she was invited recently to speak at the School Breakfast Leadership program. Dr. Hunter stated that Louisiana is making headway and receiving national attention for efforts to reduce and eliminate childhood hunger. Discussion followed.

Kids Count Overview: Teresa Falgoust, Kids Count Program Manager, Agenda for Children, provided the CCAB with an overview of the latest Kids Count facts and figures. The goal of Kids Count information is to inform the public about child well-being. Louisiana ranks 48th overall in child well-being. Kids Count measures child well-being using sixteen (16) different indicators. Ms. Falgoust stated that the issue of child undercounts regarding the census was discussed and as well as possibility of CCAB sub-groups being formed to work on possible solutions. A copy of the Kids Count book was distributed to CCAB members. Discussion followed. Teresa Falgoust will compile and distribute a one page "snapshot" of Louisiana as well as talking points to be distributed.

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Sub-committee Priorities: Sherry Guarisco stated that one of the purposes of the CCAB is to make recommendations regarding budget priorities that will be presented to the Children's Cabinet through Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet, at the September 11th Children's Cabinet Meeting. In addition it is required that CCAB make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet through Dr. Hunter, as to the specific budget items to be supported in the Children's Budget no later than November 30th. Lastly, CCAB is to make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet through Dr. Hunter as to the specific programs with the greatest potential for reducing child poverty and funding opportunities for the implementation of such programs.

A copy of the CCAB Budget Priority Recommendations was distributed to all CCAB members as well as other suggested budget priorities for discussion.

Items marked with an * indicates items that were specifically discussed at the last Children's Cabinet Meeting as needing to be placed in the budget. In addition the First Lady stated that the schools need more Guidance Counselors that have been trained in trauma care and that counselors should be providing more counseling than administrative services.

Older Foster Care and Youth Aging Out of Care: Kathleen Stewart Richey presented the following recommendations on behalf of the subcommittee:

1. Fully fund the implementation of Act 649 of the 2018 Regular Session that maintains foster care for children turning 18 under certain circumstances.
2. Fund increased staffing at DCFS to allow for the establishment and maintenance of specialized care managers for youth aging out of foster care with the goal that no child ages out of foster care without a permanent connection to at least one committed adult.
3. Fund normalcy activities for older foster care youth, such as driving lessons and assistance with vehicle insurance, enrichment activities such as music and art, and other extracurricular activities that are recognized as optimal child development.
4. Provide start-up funding for community-based initiatives, such as Open Table, LA Fosters and Youth Villages, and continue funding for CASA and other programs that offer ways for citizens to support vulnerable youth.
5. Fund the continued rebuilding efforts of DCFS that include (a) decreasing staff turnover and allowance for overtime pay for staff with caseloads exceeding best practice standards; (b) recruiting and supporting foster and kinship families including an increase in the board rate; (c) acquiring vehicles for staff that ensure safe transport of children; and (d) acquiring technology that supports DCFS staff in effective, efficient and safe practices. Discussion followed.

Rhenda Hodnett reported that DCFS has applied for a grant through Youth Villages YV Lifeset that would contribute \$1 million dollars a year for three years as long as the state matches those funds to use their model of case management for older youth in foster care. It is the only evidence based model of its kind. Ms. Hodnett also stated that DCFS does need additional staff and will be requesting more staff. In addition Dr. Hodnett spoke concerning the upcoming Listening Tour where DCFS will be traveling statewide to speak to stakeholders to discuss resources available throughout the state. A schedule of the meetings will be forwarded to CCAB members. OJJ will also be holding a listening tour throughout the state by Judicial District with law enforcement, Judges and providers. Information concerning these meetings will be distributed to CCAB Members. Discussion followed.

Childhood Hunger: Kelly Pepper and Alfreda Tillman-Bester presented the following recommendations on behalf of the subcommittee:

1. Fund expansion of SNAP Employment and Training and other work training programs to prepare Louisianans for “in demand” jobs, thus addressing the issue of food insecurity and child hunger by preparing parents for meaningful, available work that pays a living wage. (This recommendation is offered as a specific solution to reducing childhood poverty.)
2. Fund initiatives to encourage increased participation in the School Feeding program, with a goal of 100% of eligible schools systems participating.
3. Fund efforts to identify and eliminate “food deserts” by coordinating federal, state and local resources that increase children’s access to healthy food options.
4. Fund the Louisiana 2-1-1 initiative to assist families in locating food and other available programs that support family stability.
5. Fund initiatives that increase access to parenting education and ways to engage families in policy development.
6. Support paid family leave policies and practices. Discussion followed.

Services for Children with Disabilities: Marsha Shuler presented the following recommendations on behalf of the subcommittee:

1. Fund initiatives that support local school districts in accessing increased federal Medicaid funds for health services for children.
2. Fund the continued operation and expansion of school-based health centers to support increased adolescent wellness visits.
3. For the families and/or caregivers of very young children, ensure funding for continuation of mental health consultation, home visitation and parenting, increased developmental screening, initiatives that reduce substance-exposed newborns, and promote safe sleep, breastfeeding and improved perinatal outcomes.

Donald Songy stated that a meeting was held this week with Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, Louisiana Department of Health, John White, Superintendent of Schools, as well as members of their staff to discuss amending the state plan to allow all children who qualify under Medicaid to be covered for health care services. Connie Bellone stated at this time only special education plans in place. The new plan would cover all children who are eligible for Medicaid. A state plan modified is being at this time that in order for this to happen the state plan will need to be modified. These funds will pay for staff only and not the services and those funds can be used for children 0-3 years of age. Services will not count against child's Medicaid allotment. Discussion followed.

Early Childhood Mental Health/Early Childhood Experiences: Dr. Sarah Hinshaw-Fuselier presented the following recommendations on behalf of the subcommittee:

Fund initiatives that offer adequate support for children's mental health treatment, especially children birth to five. Programming should include investments in evidence-based treatment practices for very young children and their caregivers (e.g., requiring age-appropriate methods, training practitioners in the use of Diagnostic Classification: 0-5 and models such as Parent Child Interaction Therapy and Preschool PTSD Treatment.)

1. Fund efforts to ensure Medicaid support (payment, network adequacy) for a range of evidence-based infant and early childhood mental health services.
2. Fund a pilot to develop a locally coordinated, comprehensive cross-sector system of supports that ranges from promotion and prevention to intervention for families with infants and very young children, and, funding for the statewide infrastructure needed to replicate the model regionally.
3. Fund the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to eliminate the waitlist. CCAP supports low income families who are working, in school or job training programs by providing access to reliable, quality care for their young children. Research shows that child care breakdowns in Louisiana cost employers over \$800 million a year.
4. Fund initiatives designed to reduce childhood trauma. Discussion followed.

Other Suggested Budget Priorities for Discussion

1. Funding to bring the new juvenile center fully on-line, in accordance with Raise the Age*
2. Funding for localities to implement community-based alternatives to detention.
3. Funding to expand raising the age of foster care*
4. Funding for reducing childhood trauma (must be a priority especially with the natural disasters and violence taking place in the schools).
5. Support for school districts and LDH to address drug and alcohol prevention by accessing federal grants and programs.
6. Can schools access private insurance to pay for health services; if so how to support this?
7. Support for school districts in implementing Act 696/2018, allowing behavioral health specialists to access students at school.
8. Study of early childhood education and what it would take for that program to be universal.

9. Study of the prevalence of diabetes in school systems across the state of LA with some kind of forecast as to the future prevalence of this disease.

Study of all of the mental health providers that are providing services in schools and the impact of each program type. Discussion followed.

State Department Priorities:

LDH Priorities:

- (1) First, set client up in appropriate settings i.e. make sure you are not putting someone in institutionalized care that could be taken care of through a waiver program.
- (2) Elimination of Hepatitis C. Dr. Gee is working with pharmaceutical companies to make drugs for Hep C more affordable.
- (3) Reduction of opioid abuse.
- (4) Reprourement of MCO's and making sure children's health care issues are being covered.
- (5) Overall for LDH employees to be good stewards of governmental resources.

OPH Priorities:

- (1) Focus on preventing HIV and Hepatitis C
- (2) Reducing smoking in adult and adolescent population
- (3) Increasing wellness visits, screening visits, for women and children, breastfeeding initiative, and safe sleeping arrangements.
- (4) Focus on pregnant women and children – transitioning to an EBT card for WIC purchases.
- (5) Neo-natal abstinence – reduction of opioid abuse

DCFS:

- (1) Building a strong workforce
- (2) Recruiting and supporting foster and kinship families
- (3) Improving outcomes for older youth in foster care
- (4) Technology for effective and efficient practice and safety

Vote on Budget Priorities: Sherry Guarisco asked if there were any more budget recommendations that had not yet been proposed. It was stated that Medicaid coverage work better. More use of evidence based models needs to be used by therapists. Discussion followed.

Other Business: Lenell Young stated that a critical piece of work to improve the lives of children and families is to have more parenting education. More education and support is needed for families and children.

Public Comments: Katina Semien informed the CCAB that a copy of all the programs funded by the Children's Trust Fund was included in the packets and distributed to Board Members.

Meeting schedule is as follows:

Upcoming CCAB meetings:

Tuesday, October 9, 2018	10:00 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)	Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room
Friday, December 14, 2018	10:00 am -12:00 pm (CCAB)	Capitol Press Room, 4 th Floor

Upcoming Children's Cabinet meeting:

Tuesday, November 6, 2018	10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	State Capitol Press Room 4 th Floor
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Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.

