



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

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

October 9, 2018

Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room 136 A-B

Member Name: Attendees

Alfreda Tillman-Bester	Dr. Kristin Savicki for Karen Stubbs
Dr. Charles Coleman	Reshonn Saul
Dr. Gina Eubanks	Sundee Winder for Mary Beth Scalco
Dr. Eric Griggs	Katina Semien
Sherry S. Guarisco	Marsha Shuler
Dr. Sarah Hinshaw Fuselier	Ayn Stehr
Brandi Huling	Beth Touchet-Morgan
Jennifer Karle	Melanie Washington
Ashley Politz	Gina L. Womack
Kathleen Stewart-Richey	

Non-Members: Guests

Stephen Kauffman	Mary Bellis Williams
Kia Simms	Donald Songy
Joy Lobrano	Lenell Young
Daniel Mintz	Karen Powell
Laci Polotzola	Brenda Sharp
Kevin Clement	Jodie Roberts
Melissa Campbell	

Staff:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Michele M. Rabalais

Welcome:

Dr. Dana Hunter, Children's Cabinet Executive Director welcomed everyone to the October 9th Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting.

Call to Order:

Sherry Guarisco, CCAB Chair, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

Roll Call:

Michele M. Rabalais called roll.

Approval of Minutes:

Sherry Guarisco, Board Chair, called for a review of the agenda and minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was tabled due to the lack of a quorum.

Executive Director's Report:

Dr. Dana Hunter presented a brief Children's Cabinet Update. Dr. Hunter stated that the Governor declared October Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness month. Dr. Hunter then requested that the agenda be amended to offer a moment of silence in recognition of individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence and breast cancer.

Dr. Hunter informed the CCAB that October is the official month of the school breakfast challenge, an initiative through Governor John Bel Edwards' No Kid Hungry Campaign. Last year the challenge exceeded their goal of 100 schools joining the initiative with 300 schools total joining.

Dr. Hunter reported that she attended a program provided by Second Harvest and Chevron. The program opened a food pantry in a food desert area at Phoenix High School in Braithwaite, Louisiana.

In addition Dr. Hunter introduced Judge Joy Lobrano, chair of the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission. The Commission and the Advisory Board have met jointly for about a year to produce an annual report to address various areas of human trafficking.

Dr. Hunter discussed SB 561 which created the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council. The Council has been created to assist and empower struggling families throughout Louisiana. Discussion followed. Donald Songy will meet with Boards and Commissions to discuss the proposition of adding CCAB members to the group..

Lastly, Dr. Hunter discussed SR10, the study resolution to extend the age of foster care. Meetings have been held regularly and the group is working in partnership with the Annie E. Casey foundation. In addition, Sherry Guarisco requested that a child representative is on every task force involving children.

Last Cabinet Meeting Overview:

During the last cabinet meeting, Theresa Falgout presented the Kids Count data information to the Children's Cabinet members. Ms. Falgout estimated that nearly 50% of African American children living in Louisiana are living in poverty.

To address poverty, Dr. Hunter and the office of Programs and Planning will be working with Department Secretaries, State Representatives and Senators to address the coordination of efforts targeting poverty. The meetings will discuss aligning each office's services to ensure collaboration between initiatives and efforts of moving families out of poverty. Sherry Guarisco discussed the event provided by Governor Edwards and Representative Gattie to express how collaboration efforts are necessary to ensure the welfare of children are first.

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Sub-committee Priorities:

Recommendations from the previous CCAB meeting were distributed to the CCAB members.

Sherry Guarisco stated the challenges moving forward are how to streamline and prioritize the recommendations. In addition, Sherry Guarisco mentioned that she pledged to Governor Edwards that CCAB would ensure all services are coordinated across agencies. Governor Edwards also directed the CCAB to look into funded programs to see if there any which need to be adjusted or eliminated. Sherry Guarisco asked for comments from those who attended the August 17th meeting.

CCAB Member Alfreda Tillman-Bester reminded attendees of the HB 735/Act 271 bill passed during the regular session by Representative Jackson. The act is a workforce training pilot to assist moving individuals out of poverty. The council will be housed at DCFS.

Sherry Guarisco and Dr. Dana Hunter worked with the Women's policy and research group and presented on children's issues and the CCAB's recommendations.

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Program Recommendations:

Sherry Guarisco stated that, in accordance with the law, the CCAB must provide Dr. Hunter with specific program recommendations to be conveyed to the CC by November 30th. The CC meeting was originally scheduled on Election Day, November 6, 2018. Sherry Guarisco and Dr. Hunter decided to have a combined meeting with the CCAB and CC members to present specific budget priorities. The meeting will be held on Tuesday December 11, 2018 beginning at 10:30 a.m. and adjourning at noon in the Capital Press Room on the 4th floor.

Sherry Guarisco asked how the CCAB should provide the CC with specific recommendations. Ms. Guarisco suggested the recommendations be discussed in sub-committees with the following questions in mind:

1. What is already being done?
2. Where, in the recommendations, are collaborations?
3. What programs are brand new?
 - a. What is not working?
 - b. What needs restructuring?
 - c. What needs reevaluating?
 - d. What data is needed to review the programs?
4. What is the cost? Is the cost state or federal?
 - a. Alfreda Tillman-Bester suggested using the department budget narratives and the DOA to receive the needed information.
 - b. Marsha Shuler suggested to start with priorities to focus on retrieve the necessary data.

Further discussion followed.

Sherry Guarisco suggested that each CCAB member provide their opinion of how the recommendations should be prioritized. The following recounts the information provided by the member:

- Marsha Shuler:
 - Child Care Assistance
 - Aging out of foster Care
 - Medicaid in schools

- Dr. Charles Coleman:
 - Aging out of foster care (17-21 High priority)
 - Child care assistance
 - Raise the age (Acadiana is fully funded)
- Beth Touchet-Morgan:
 - Raise the age
 - Childcare assistance
 - Infant mental health
- Alfreda Tillman-Bester:
 - Increase employment training opportunities
 - Childcare assistance
 - Raise the age of foster care
- Katina Semien:
 - 2-1-1 funding for families to have access to information
- Gina Womack:
 - Reducing childhood trauma
 - Focus on placing employees in schools who are trained in treating with trauma
 - Further focus to early childhood and prevention of abuse
 - Expansion of school-based health centers
- Stephanie Sterling
 - NGO's
- Dr. Dana Hunter:
 - Early childhood education
 - Neo-natal opioid withdrawal
- Dr. Eric Griggs:
 - Childhood trauma
 - Mental Health for children

Overview of overall recommendations provided from Sherry Guarisco:

- Childcare assistance
- Services for older youth
 - Youth aging out of foster care
 - Raise the age
- Medicaid in schools
- Pre-natal care
 - Emphasis on neo-natal opioid withdrawal
- Mental health for young children
 - Focus on trauma informed care
- Ensuring Medicaid funding continuation
- Increased job training opportunities across agencies
- Continuation of programs
 - Examples include: home visitation, school based health centers, CASA, etc.
- 2-1-1

Sherry Guarisco stated that she and Dr. Hunter will compile a draft of broad recommendations for CCAB members to vote on as to which recommendations should be presented to the CC. The recommendations will be prioritized with an opening statement of prevention, shifting the focus, and critical need for anti-poverty programs. Of the urgent topics selected, the CCAB sub-committees who suggested the topic will be requested to provide data to ensure the recommendation is urgent. Beth Touchet-Morgan will create Survey Monkey for the CCAB members to vote on topics. Beth Touchet-Morgan also requested that valid email addresses are provided for the Survey Monkey.

Other Business:

Kathleen Stewart-Richey stated that the Child Well Being Summit has been scheduled for May 7-8, 2018. Information will be forthcoming.

Sherry Guarisco announced Katina Semien, Children's Trust Fund, funded the ACE's conference to be held in Lafayette March 28-29, 2019. The agenda is currently in formation.

Ashley Politz announced, Wednesday, October 16, 2018 the *Vaccinate Before You Graduate* campaign will be launched with First Lady Donna Edwards as a spokesperson. A press conference at the Governor's Mansion will be scheduled as well. The main focus of the program is to update students on their vaccines before graduation as they are still qualified under insurance. Partners for the campaign include the Office of Public Health, Shots for Tots, Family Physicians, School based Health Alliance, the school nurses group, and others.

Dr. Gina Eubanks stated the *Farm to School Conference* will be held on October 9-10, 2018. The program aims to increase the students' ability to access healthy, local food products by linking local farmers and producers with the students, via the school. The conference is provided by a grant the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center received through the Department of Education.

Lenell Young stated there is an event at the Southern University Agriculture center this weekend for families. Lenell will make sure the flier is distributed.

Public Comments:

Next Meeting:

December 11th from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, 4th floor Press Room, State Capitol

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.