

Louisiana Children's Trust Fund BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2024

ATTENDANTS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Francesca Hamilton-Acker, Louisiana Bar Association
Christie Hitchens, NASW LA
Yolanda Motley, Early Childhood Education
Jolie Williamson, Children's Cabinet
Tamara Foster-Montgomery, University Community
Dr. Kim Sherman, Louisiana Psychological Association
Alyssa "Aly" Rau, DCFS/Child Welfare

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Francesca Hamilton-Acker, CTF Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. and welcomed Board Members and guests.

ROLL CALL:

Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Francesca Hamilton-Acker, CTF Board Chair, welcomed new Board Member, Aly Rau, DCFS/Child Welfare, to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Yolanda Motley made a motion to approve the May 20, 2024, Minutes as presented. Dr. Kim Sherman seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Executive Director presented the Financial Report and copies were distributed to Board Members.

At the May 20th, Board Meeting the LCTF Board Chair requested that the Executive Director invite a representative from DOA to speak but due to DOA's participation in LCTF's Grantee's meeting, which was currently taking place, a representative from DOA was not available to speak. The Executive Director will send out an invite for the next meeting. Discussion followed.

Yolanda Motley made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Christie Hitchens seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

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

- Grantee Meeting was successful and well attended.
- Presenter James Brown, Jr. was excellent.
- Encouraged Board Members to engage and connect with Grantees.
- Three (3) active campaigns running:
 - Look Before You Lock
 - Know Before You Go
 - Swim Safety

The Board Chair informed the Board that the Swim Safety Campaign was pitched at the May 20, 2024, meeting. Jolie Williamson and Ursula Anderson along with Team Dynamics got the campaign up and running by July 2024. July was proclaimed to be “Swim Safety” month and campaign materials were sent to CTF Board Members.

Ms. Acker requested a ratification of the swim safety campaign. Christie Hitchens made a motion to accept the swim safety campaign as the latest CTF campaign. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

In addition, the Board Chair reminded Board Members to complete ethics certification. All Board Members should check with the Board of Ethics to check on their status and follow up with any requirements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Ursula Anderson, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director’s report. The Executive Director has been involved in the following:

- Submitted CBCAP grant application.
- Participated in the annual CBCAP Conference via Zoom
- Attended two (2) Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) Meetings
 - Presented information regarding the State Caucus meetings to CCAB members.
- Conducted a Look Before You Lock presentation for the Department of Education
- Served as guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Ville Platte
- Conducted site visits to the following LCTF grantees:
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWLA
 - Extra Mile
- Monthly Coffee and Conversations continues to be held the third Wednesday of the month.
- LCTF website has been updated.
- State Caucus meetings will begin statewide in September. A list of dates was distributed, and Board Members were encouraged to attend.

The Executive Director stated that she will continue to work on getting the public more involved with the state caucus meetings by trying to get more parents/families involved. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

SPECIAL REQUESTS/BOARD COMMITTEES:

Board Chair requested that LCTF work to continue efforts to convene Board sub-committees. The Board Chair requested that the Board look at sub-committees and sub-committee membership. The Board Chair also spoke regarding the latest committee, the fiscal sub-committee, to discuss processes and procedures regarding special requests as well as special funds.

The main intent of the Discussion fiscal sub-committee was also to act as a support system for all matters dealing with fiscal. This would include working on the annual budget, dealing with DOA, identifying amount of funds LCTF would receive each year etc. Discussion followed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Currently there are three (3) vacancies on the LCTF Board that need to be filled:

- Religious Community
- Chamber of Commerce Executives
- NAACP

The Executive Director has been in contact with Boards and Commissions and is working on filling open slots and approving Board reappointments. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

GRANT APPROVALS 2024-25 FY:

The Executive Director informed the Board that the Children's Cabinet met and approved the LCTF Grant Review Recommendations.

DOA/OFSS:

The LCTF Board Chair previously requested that a representative from DOA/OFSS be present to speak to the LCTF Board concerning the LCTF budget. The Executive Director will speak to DOA/OFSS about presenting at the next LCTF Board Meeting.

2025-2030 LOUISIANA STATE CAUCUS:

Information regarding the Louisiana State Caucus meeting(s) was distributed to Board Members. Board Members are encouraged to attend and invite interested parties.

LCTF CAMPAIGNS:

Three (3) active campaigns running:

- Look Before You Lock
- Know Before You Go
- Swim Safety

Copies of posters were distributed to Board Members. Discussion followed.

The Executive Director informed the Board that the newest LCTF coloring books are available and were distributed to the grantees. A PDF version is available on the LCTF website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jolie requested that Board Members take a moment to be introduced to LCTF grantees.

ADJOURNMENT:

Yolanda Motley made a motion to adjourn. Aly Rau seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: October 24, 2024