

Louisiana Children's Trust Fund
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2026

ATTENDANTS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Bridgewater, DPS&C Office of Juvenile Justice
Ree Casey-Jones, Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Brittany Cochran, Department of Education
Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Louisiana Bar Association
Christie Hitchens, NASW-LA
Dr. Alicia Kober, LA Medical Society
Yolanda Motley, Early Childhood Education
Jolie V. Williamson, Children's Cabinet

STAFF

Ursula Anderson, Executive Director
Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Secretary
Lakela Palmer, Program Manager

ROLL CALL:

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

WELCOME:

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed board members and guests at 1:15 p.m.

Prior to the start of the meeting Board Members present were introduced to the fiscal year 27 grantees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Members were given a moment to review the minutes of the May 21, 2026, meeting.

- Yolanda Motley made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Christie Hitchens seconded the motion. All approved. Minutes accepted as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ursula Anderson, LCTF Executive Director, presented the financial report, and copies were distributed to all board members.

Ms. Anderson informed the Board that the Trust Fund will allocate federal dollars first as these funds come with an expiration date. Statutory Dedicated dollars are used to pay the salaries/benefits of the Executive Director and Executive Secretary.

Discussion followed.

- Ree Casey-Jones moved to accept the financial report as presented. Dr. Alicia Kober seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

CHAIRMANS REPORT:

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, LCTF Board Chair, presented the Chairman's report.

Ms. Acker's report included the following:

- Focus on subcommittees
 - What needs to be revamped?
 - New subcommittees
 - Change structure of the Board
- Discussion regarding LCTF's campaigns, including:
 - Know Before You Go
 - Look Before You Lock
 - Swim Safety

Ms. Acker requested that Board Members think about and suggest any new campaign ideas and that board members continue to push campaign promotions.

Jolie Williamson reported that the swim safety campaign continues in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Ms. Williamson stated that every regional LDH director has visited swim schools in their region. While visiting the swim schools the regional directors have provided each swim school with materials and a swim safety tool kit. LDH is interested in continuing the swim safety campaign in the future.

Information regarding the water safety program can be found at the following website:

<https://ldh.la.gov/get-a-swim-plan>

Discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Ursula Anderson, LCTF Executive Director, presented the Executive Directors report.

Ms. Anderson reported that she has been involved in the following activities and meetings:

- Completed and submitted the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grant application
- Participated in a virtual meeting with federal partners
- Coordinated with the Division of Administration to close out the fiscal year 26 grant cycle
- Reviewed and negotiated grantee budget narratives and contract budget(s)
- Participated along with Jolie Williamson in partnership with LDH in the swim safety campaign.
- Attended meetings of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, and the Council of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.
- Co-sponsored with Dr. Shayla Polk and other agencies in the Governor's Office a Youth Wellness Summit in Lafayette.
- Continued monthly Coffee and Conversations sessions.
- Continued promoting LCTF Campaigns
- In the process of having the LCTF website transferred
- Working on LCTF Board appointments/reappointments

Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. **Team Dynamics Proposal FY 27 – Coffee and Conversations**

Team Dynamics is requesting \$13,200 to produce the Coffee and Conversations, a bi-monthly virtual speaker series.

Discussion followed.

- Christie Hitchens moved to accept the proposal as presented. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

b. **Billboard**

Ursula Anderson, LCTF Executive Director, informed the Board that there is approximately \$42,000 to \$45,000 available in the federal grant expiring September 30th.

Ursula Anderson and Jolie Williamson remain in contact with the fiscal department concerning the total amount available.

Ideas concerning ways to spend the funds include:

- a.) Put the Phone Down Billboard
 - a. Ursula Anderson and Jolie Williamson will meet with the fiscal and communications department(s) to discuss costs and logistics.
 - b. Franchesca Hamilton-Acker requested that Ms. Anderson research to see if billboards used in the past are still available.
- b.) Comfort Boxes/Hygiene Kits and/or coloring books
- c.) Furniture for conference room
- d.) Use permissible social media outlets for promotions

Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

a. **Board Vacancy**

- Ursula Anderson, Executive Director continues to work with Boards and Commissions to fill vacancies
- Ms. Anderson reported on a recent conversation with Dr. Kim Sherman who informed her of her intent to resign from the CTF Board.
- In addition, Ms. Anderson will seek out and meet with a legislator to see about changing the legislation to remove defunct organizations.

- b. Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Website
 - Website is in the process of being transferred.
- c. Campaign Updates
 - All campaigns are continuing and campaign info has been emailed to all current LCTF grantees.
- d. Swim Safety Initiative
 - The swim safety initiative in conjunction with LDH continues statewide.

ADJOURNMENT

- Jolie V. Williamson made a motion to adjourn. Ree Casey-Jones seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.