

Louisiana Children's Trust Fund BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 30, 2026

ATTENDANTS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Tressa Dunbar
Rachael Dorman

STAFF

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

ROLL CALL:

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

WELCOME:

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, LCTF Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Board Members and guests at 12:09 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ursula Anderson, LCTF Executive Director, introduced LCTF's new program manager, Lakela Palmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brittany Cochran made a motion to approve the December 18, 2025, minutes as presented. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Ree Casey Jones made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Board Chair, presented the Chairman's Report. Discussion included the following:

- Grant review process
- Seek out programs that provide prevention programs first and foremost
- Fiscal responsibility and accountability
- Spend more on direct services and not salaries
- Avoid duplication of services
- Meeting dates for the year have been set
- Confirm date of August meeting

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ursula Anderson, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director's report.

Information included in the report is as follows:

- Attended Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Meetings
- Attended Children's Cabinet Meeting
- Attended the Connections Count Conference in Lake Charles
- Conducted site visit at Children's Advocacy Center – Hope House
- Met with federal partners regarding upcoming CBCAP annual report
- Conducted Coffee and Conversations speaker series
- Worked on the upcoming Child Abuse Prevention Conference
- Reviewed/vetted all CTF grant applications submitted
- Conducted Grant Reviewer Training(s)
- Grant Review subcommittee meeting
- Collaborated with other agencies for Youth Wellness Summit

Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FY 2026-27:

Yolanda Motley presented the Grant Review Committee Report. Ms. Motley reported that 102 program applications were received totaling \$5,594,258.06. 13 Event/Conference applications were received totaling \$254,006.

A copy of the Grant Review Committee recommendations was distributed to Board Members. The Grant Review Committee is recommending funding for 63 out of the 102 applications received at a total of \$738,945. The Committee also recommends that 8 out of the 13 Event/Conference applications be funded at a total of \$80,006. The total of funding recommended is \$818,951. Discussion followed.

Ree Casey-Jones made a motion to accept the grant review subcommittee recommendations as presented. Tamara Foster-Montgomery seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Recommendations will be presented to the Children's Cabinet on April 2, 2026, for final approval.

LSU – SREC PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS:

Copies of the two proposals received from LSU SREC were distributed to Board Members for review and approval. The two proposals are as follows:

A. FY 26-27 Program Evaluation and Technical Assistance Services Proposal

Yolanda Motley made a motion to approve the Program Evaluation proposal as presented. Brittany Cochran seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

B. FY 26-27 Online Application and Technical Assistance Services Proposal

Kim Sherman made a motion to approve the Online application proposal as presented. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CONFERENCE:

The LCTF Child Abuse Prevention Conference is scheduled to be held at the Double Tree in Lafayette on April 30, 2026. Registration is open and a flyer was distributed to Board Members. All Board Members were encouraged and invited to attend

BOARD VACANCY:

It was reported that there are several vacant seats on the LCTF Board. Ursula Anderson, Executive Director, is working with Board and Commissions to have these seats filled. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

Jolie Williamson made a motion to adjourn. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.