

Louisiana Children's Trust Fund
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2026

ATTENDANTS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Brittany Cochran, Department of Education
Tamara Foster-Montgomery, University Community
Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Louisiana Bar Association
Christie Hitchens, NASW-LA
Dr. Alicia Kober, LA Medical Society
Dr. Kim Sherman, LA Psychological Association
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 12:09 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Members were given a moment to review the minutes of the March 30, 2026, meeting.

- Dr. Alicia Kober made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tamara Foster-Montgomery seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

- Brittany Cochran moved to accept the financial report as presented. Christy Hitchens 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:

- Discussion regarding LCTF's campaigns, including:
 - o Know Before You Go
 - o Look Before You Lock

Ms. Acker requested that board members continue to push campaign promotions.

- Disclosure statements: Board members were reminded to complete and submit their disclosure statements in a timely manner. Ms. Acker noted that if a member serves on multiple boards, only one disclosure statement is required.
- Board organization: Ms. Acker requested that the board seek a legal opinion regarding board makeup. It was suggested that certain positions may need to be eliminated or adjusted.
- Board member responsibilities: The board discussed responsibilities and the need to refresh by-laws and committee structures.
- Rules and Policy Committee: Discussion followed. Brittany Cochran will serve as chair. Ms. Cochran will review current policy and recruit new committee members.
- Grants Review Committee: The committee has completed its work for the year.
- Ms. Acker expressed gratitude to LCTF staff for an exceptional Child Abuse Prevention Conference held in Lafayette.

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:

* April was Child Abuse Prevention Month, during which the 5th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference was held. This year's conference focused on the five protective factors.

*Participated in the Hearts of Hope pinwheel planting.

- Working on the CBCAP grant application, which is due in June.
- Preparing for FY 27 by reviewing and negotiating budget narratives. All grant recipients except one accepted their awards.
- Continuing efforts to fund more direct services.
- Noted that LCTF will not cover the following costs this fiscal year:
 - o Insurance costs for 3rd-party contractors
 - o Services outside the scope of prevention
- LCTF is partnering with other agencies in the Governor's Office to host a Youth Wellness Summit in Lafayette on June 12th. The conference will focus on serving children and youth. Ms. Anderson will forward registration information to all board members.
- Remained active in supporting various agencies at the Capitol.
- Visited the Youth Challenge Program along with Jolie Williamson, Children's Cabinet Director, and Dr. Amanda Shackelford, LYFE Executive Director.
- Continued monthly Coffee and Conversations sessions.
- Attended meetings of the Children's Cabinet, the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, and the Council of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.
- Reported that new grant procedures will be taught at the upcoming grantee meeting to be held in August 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

a. **Team Dynamics Proposal FY 27 – Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund Grantee Educational Day**

Team Dynamics requested \$20,000 to produce the LCTF Grantee Meeting.

The Executive Director recommended that LCTF staff work together to spearhead and manage the grantee meeting internally.

b. **Team Dynamics Proposal FY 27 – Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund Website**

Team Dynamics requested \$20,000 to produce the LCTF website.

The Executive Director recommended that LCTF staff collaborate to manage and maintain the website in-house.

c. **2026 Swim Safety Proclamation**

Jolie Williamson presented the Swim Safety Proclamation. According to the Child Death Review Panel, drownings remain the highest cause of death among youth. LCTF is partnering with LDH and the Children’s Cabinet on a statewide swim safety program. Additional information is available at: getaswimplan.ldh.la.gov. Discussion followed.

d. **Launch of Summer Campaigns**

The same posters used in previous years will continue to be utilized. Ms. Anderson requested that board members continue distributing posters and highlighting all promotional materials.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Board Vacancy

Executive Director will review board positions.

b. Personal Disclosure Statement

Make sure disclosure statements are complete and have been turned in in a timely manner.

ADJOURNMENT

- Dr. Alicia Kober made a motion to adjourn. Brittney Cochran seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.