

Louisiana Children's Trust Fund BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2025

ATTENDANTS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, CTF Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

WELCOME:

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, CTF Board Chair, welcomed Board Members and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:

Angela Bridgewater made a motion to approve October 24, 2024, minutes as presented. Christie Hitchens seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Yolanda Motley made a motion to accept 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:

- Discussed LCTF Campaigns: Know Before You Go and Look Before You Lock. Discussion included the following:
 - What more can we do? How can LCTF elevate and enhance the campaigns?
 - Develop a digital message that can be pushed out to parents, day cares, churches etc.
 - Talk to the Department of Education about sending flyers and information to schools.
 - Include campaign materials in Early Childhood newsletter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Ursula Anderson, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director’s report. Ms. Anderson reported the following:

- Attended Council on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Children’s Cabinet and Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board Meeting(s)
- Met with LSU SREC
 - Discussed grant application and grant review
 - Received Annual Report
- Attended National Alliance of Children’s Trust Funds Conference in Phoenix
- Attended Together We Can Conference
- Participated in a CBCAP Interview
- Coffee and Conversations continue.

Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES:

The LCTF Executive Director informed the Board that she had received notice from Dr. Nyoki Cosey-Brown with Innovative Approaches Counseling Center, LLP, informing her that they would be unable to continue with their LCTF grant due to financial constraints and a lack of revenue.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Yolanda Motley presented the Grant Review Committee Recommendations, and a copy of the report was distributed to all Board Members.

Ms. Motley informed that Board that 99 program and 13 conference/event applications were received totaling \$4,624,906.23. The Grant Review Committee recommended funding of 37 programs totaling \$695,975 and 6 conference/event(s) totaling \$74,985 for a total amount of \$770,960. A copy of the report was distributed to Board Members. Discussion followed.

TEAM DYNAMICS PROPOSALS:

Susan Shaffette of Team Dynamics submitted a proposal for the FY 26 Annual Grantee Meeting in the amount of \$19,000. Alicia Kober made a motion to accept the proposal as submitted. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

PROPOSAL FOR PARTNERSHIP: SOLUTIONS SUMMIT ON TRUANCY:

Jolie Williamson and ReShonn Saul discussed the Solutions Summit on Truancy.

The Strengthening Louisiana's Children and Families: Solutions Summit aims to increase collaboration to improve outcomes for Louisiana's children and families. This free Summit will convene community-based providers and school, juvenile justice, and FINS representatives to share and learn best practices for community-based prevention and intervention and generate proactive strategies that support children and families while preventing involvement in child welfare and delinquency systems. Discussion followed.

Yolanda Motley made a motion to fund the Solutions Summit in the amount of \$5,000. Dr. Kim Sherman seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

2024-25 GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT:

Yolanda Motley, Grant Review Committee Chair, presented the Grant Review report. Ms. Motley informed that Board that 80 program and 9 conference/event applications were received totaling \$3,627,112.37. The Grant Review Committee recommended funding of 65 programs totaling \$1,373,750 and 9 conference/event(s) totaling \$144,895 for a total amount of \$1,518,735. A copy of the report was distributed to Board Members. Discussion followed.

Christie Hitchens made a motion to accept the Grant Review Committee recommendations as presented. Yolanda Motley seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried. The recommendations will now be forwarded to the Children's Cabinet for approval.

2025-2030 LOUISIANA CAUCUS/STATE PLAN:

The Executive Director informed the Board that the 2025-2030 State Plan is in the final stages. Data and recommendations as well as proof reading has been completed. Team Dynamics is now in the final stages of layout and hopes to have the State Plan completed by May, 2025. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Yolanda Motley made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Rebecca Hook seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING: May 15th, 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Capitol Annex Building, 1051 N. 3rd Street, #1-138**