



**Council on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Unapproved Minutes
November 22, 2024**

Member Name: Attendees

Ursula Anderson	Kathy Coleman
Carl Dillon	LaVondra Dobbs
Betty Grant	Joanna Arrington
Rita Hathorne	Charlene Julien
Tarnisha Mayfield	Pam Schooler
Amanda Shackelford	Julie Starns
Jolie Williamson	Anna Williamson

Staff:

Jolie Williamson, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Michele M. Rabalais, Children's Cabinet Executive Assistant

Welcome and Call to Order:

Kathy Coleman, Board Co-Chair, welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm. Introductions were made.

Roll Call:

Michele M. Rabalais, Executive Assistant, called roll.

Approval of Minutes:

Amanda Shackelford made a motion to accept November 22, 2024 as presented. Jolie Williamson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Opening Address:

Kathy Coleman, Board Co-Chair, provided the opening address. Ms. Coleman stated that she is happy to see new faces present and thanked members for their attendance.

Ms. Coleman informed the Board that Betty Grant has prepared a flyer with information regarding the Council on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

Ms. Coleman also stated that Council has three subcommittees as follows:

- Family Stability
- Legal Issues
- Hunger

In addition, Ms. Coleman requested that Council Members volunteer for at least one subcommittee and encouraged members who have not signed up to do so at this time. A list of subcommittees and members will be sent out to all Council members.

Anna Williamson and Carl Dillon volunteered to be on the Family Stability subcommittee.

Julia Starns, LaVondra Dobbs, Curtis Nelson and Ursula Anderson volunteered to be on the Legal Issues subcommittee.

Pam Schooler volunteered for the Hunger subcommittee.

Ms. Coleman also asked for a volunteer from the Council to present subcommittee recommendations to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board on May 13, 2025. Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Betty Grant discussed the flyer for the Council on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Ms. Grant feels that it is imperative that the Council have a social media presence, and that links should be included to agencies that serve grandparents raising grandchildren. Kathy Coleman will send out a digital file of the flyer to all Council members.

It was also made known to Council Members that Alfred Carter has created a Facebook page for the Council on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Betty Grant volunteered to work with Mr. Carter on the Facebook page. Discussion followed.

A request was made to see if there is any funding available for grandparents to pay for sports equipment for their grandchildren participating in sporting activities. Kathy Coleman stated that there is a possibility that this equipment could be paid for by the Kinship Navigator program through the family resource centers. Ms. Coleman will look into new legislation as well as parks and recreation to see if any of these expenses can be covered. Discussion followed.

New Business:

Introduction of New Members: New members were introduced.

Chair: Kathy Coleman stated that a volunteer from the Council is needed to serve as Chair of the Council. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity should contact Ms. Coleman.

In addition, Ms. Coleman stated that each of the subcommittees is in need of a subcommittee chairperson. It was requested that members text Ms. Coleman and let her know what subcommittee that each council member is interested in serving on as soon as possible.

Discussion regarding subcommittees and their recommendations will be held at the April 4, 2025 meeting.

Other Business: None

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: Jolie Williamson made a motion to adjourn. Amanda Shackelford seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 4, 2025