



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PROGRAMS *and* PLANNING

**STATUS ON THE COUNCIL OF GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
MINUTES**

August 09, 2019
East Baton Rouge Library

Members in Attendance:

Anna Kathy Coleman
Heidi Bourgeois
Mary Norris.

Leslie Hill
Talya Bergeron

Marieta "Rita" Hathorne
Donna Bowie

Guests in Attendance

Amanda Brunson

Staff in Attendance:

Tewabetch Negatu, Community Specialist

Approval of the Minutes:

In the absence of a quorum, approval of the minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

Status of the Council of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Council :

The commission was officially notified of Ms. Dot Thibodeaux's passing and reassured by Ms. Kathy that the mission of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRGC) will continue on in her legacy.

Ms. Brunson provided an overview of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) and how the committee operates. She stated that the Status on the Council of GRGC is a sub-committee of the CCAB in the current legislation and expressed that each sub-committee of CCAB put forth recommendations that can then be presented to the full cabinet at the end of the year.

While noting that the committee has been struggling to achieve quorum every meeting and thus unable to conduct official business, Ms. Brunson presented the committee with an idea which would help the council achieve quorum by means of working in unison with CCAB. Handouts were passed around of all the positions held by members of CCAB. The handouts demonstrated tremendous overlap between the two committees.

The consensus, agreed upon was that the council was open to participating in unison with CCAB to conduct business in addition to achieve quorum.

The council highlighted a number of issues facing grandparents which included the following: money for health/dental/vision insurance for grandchildren, food stamps, supplemental income, social security funds, kinship care.

The council also mentioned how they would like to see more movement within the council. Ms. Coleman expressed a great need to reach quorum at next meeting to vote on recommendations that are brought forth by members.

The council went on to agree that each individual email Dr. Negatu with a list of broad recommendations/priorities that they feel should be addressed for 2020 year. At the November 15th meeting, priorities compiled by Dr. Negatu will be shared with the entire group in order to have a round table discussion and in order to pick out which priorities shall move forward.

Ms. Bourgeois stated that DCFS is working on a kinship navigator that community members will be able to utilize which will help with understand and navigating the legal realm as a guardian. Additionally, the council expressed that they would like a document, preferably a one pager, that could have information on some of the below topics and be distributed to grandparents in the community.

Food Banks
Custody Concerns

School Information
Legal Information

Meeting Updates:

The next meeting will be November 15th at 9:00 a.m. at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library