



COUNCIL ON THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

March 4, 2021

10:00a.m.

Via Videoconference

Members in Attendance:

Robresha Anderson
Aishala Burgess
Hezekiah Carter
Renee Carthan
Leslie Chambers
Kevin Griffin-Clark
Penny Douciere

Dr. Dana Foster
Troynyah Hankton
Dominque Jones-Johnson
Natalie LaBorde
Ivy Mathis
Richard Pittman
Dr. Kelli Peterson

Kim Robinson
William A. Sommers

Guests in Attendance:

Dr. Tewabetch Negatu
Dr. Adren Wilson
Jarwanda Harris

Call to Order:

Dr. Adren Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Introduction:

Dr. Adren Wilson provided opening remarks to the Council and thanked Representative Denise Marcelle and Ms. Dominique Jones-Johnson for their work on Act 284, which resulted in the creation of the Council.

Dr. Adren Wilson nominated Ms. Dominique as the chair of the council and opened the floor for other nominations. The nomination was carried forward unanimously and without opposition.

Kevin Griffin-Clark nominated Ms. Robresha Anderson for the position of Vice-Chair. Without any other nominations, the motion was carried forward without any objection and passed unanimously.

Chair & Council Member Remarks:

Ms. Dominique shared personal testimony and provided background information into the creation of Daughters Beyond Incarceration. She stated that we do our children a disservice when we fail to identify their needs upon enrollment into schools.

She went on to mention that the council has a report due in 2022 that will address the shortcomings of our state and stated that Daughters Beyond Incarceration has been working with the Southern Poverty Law Center to develop a roadmap. Currently, the roadmap is not completed, but once completed she will provide it to the entire council. Ms.

Dominique stressed the need to build out a collation of children beyond New Orleans to ensure that all children's voices throughout the state are heard.

The council agreed to the below mission statement and purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Louisiana Council for Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers will work to ensure all children who are impacted by parental incarceration be supported mentally, physically, and academically and those caregivers will be provided with adequate resources to support them.

PURPOSE: The council will examine and identify systemic solutions to ensure that Louisiana can reduce the percentage of children with incarcerated parents who are dropping out of school, being expelled from school and are ending up in the juvenile justice systems, while identifying avenues for caregivers to be more active in reducing these impacts of parental incarceration.

The Council agreed to having monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

Aishala Burgess: Stated that many of the expulsion hearings don't have participation from parents due to the necessity of parents having to work, so many children are not represented in these hearings and many cannot appeal their cases. Additionally, Ms. Burgess stated that some of these students end up in alternative school settings and suggests a revamping of alternative school settings for children and their parents.

Kevin Griffin-Clark: agreed to the issues highlighted by Ms. Burgess and mentioned that the hearings for these students often resemble court and thus is sometimes a deterrent for parental participation

Dr. Adren Wilson suggested the following committees: Youth Voices, Caregivers, Data/Research

Council members were asked to think of at least two children for the Youth Committee, in addition to two individuals for the Caregivers and Data/Research committees for the next council meeting.

Public Comments

Jarwanda Harris: stated she would add a question for the kinship caregiver data she is collecting. She will see if she is able to include whether a caregiver is caring for a child whose parent(s) is incarcerated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.