



Louisiana's Children's Cabinet

Logistics

Name of Coordinating Body: Louisiana's Children's Cabinet

Administrative Home: Office of the Governor

Staffing: The Governor's Children's Cabinet is supported by one full time employee, who serves as the lead staff for both the Children's Cabinet and the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB).

Funding: Five state agencies serving children and families contribute interagency transfers for the cabinet budget. The agencies include the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Child and Family Services, the Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Office of Juvenile Justice.

Membership: The Louisiana Children's Cabinet is composed of the following members:

- Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services
- Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals
- Deputy Secretary for youth services of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
- Executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission
- State superintendent of education
- Commissioner of administration
- Executive director of the cabinet, to be determined by the governor
- A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives
- A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate
- A representative of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board as selected by its members
- A member of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges appointed by the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court
- A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education appointed by its president
- Secretary of the Department of Economic Development

Additionally, the Louisiana Children's Cabinet Advisory Board is made up of 42-45 statutorily authorized representatives from state agencies, advocacy groups and the community. Members of the board are appointed by the governor.

Structure

- The cabinet meets as many times annually as needed. The cabinet is chaired by the cabinet executive director.
- The CCAB members meet monthly. The advisory board was established to provide information and recommendations – to the Children's Cabinet - from the perspective of advocates, service providers and parents. The CCAB has five workgroups that meet regularly to focus on:
 1. Cross agency professional development and policy
 2. Evidence-based practices and policy recommendations
 3. 211 enhancements
 4. Louisiana Kids Dashboard
 5. Strategic partnerships and collaboration

History

Year & Method of Establishment: The Children's Cabinet was created within the Office of the Governor under Act 5 of the 1998 Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana State Legislature and is outlined in Revised Statutes 46:2600 through 46:2605.

Duties/Responsibilities/Goals: The mission of the Children's Cabinet is to ensure the provision of programs and services that will enable children to be self-sufficient, healthy and become productive citizens.

The Advisory Board's vision is to ensure that Louisiana will be a state where all of its children and youth are safe, healthy and can reach their full potential.

Current Work:

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Strategic Directions 2014-2016

The advisory board established a three year plan in which they identified three strategic directions and specific strategies, goals and action steps to guide their work.

- Strategic Direction 1: Advise and Assist the Children's Cabinet.
- Strategic Direction 2: Coordinate Agency Resources/Provide Linkages Among Agencies that Serve Children and Families.
- Strategic Direction 3: Develop Policy, Program and Budget Recommendations to Address Child and Family Issues.

Priority Projects/Initiatives

- Review cross-agency policies and procedures that affect all children and families to find efficiencies and align our initiatives.
- Expand focus on evidence-based practices to budget discussions.
- Explore options for agency service listing on our online dashboard so families can find resources more easily.
- Actively seek out integration and partnerships with non-profit and other agencies that serve children throughout the state.
- Develop public/private partnerships/collaborations with other councils serving children and families.

Accomplishments

- Created the Louisiana Kids Dashboard <http://www.kidsdashboard.la.gov/>.
- Accepted evidence-based practice recommendations compiled by Louisiana's leading experts (early interventionists, child psychologists, university professors and pediatricians) from the Child Well Being Summit hosted April 2014.
- Supported Families in Need of Services FINS initiatives and Children and Youth Planning Boards through the MacArthur Grant.

Contact Information

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Words of Wisdom:

- "Develop a focused strategic plan from the ground up. Start with your stakeholders and include their ideas in discussions with board members so that policy always stays connected with people. Oftentimes in high level discussions, we need to be reminded of the children and families we serve and the overall impact of our decision making. We have the ability to make positive changes for families statewide."

Links

- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [Children's Cabinet Advisory Board](#)
- [Children's Budget Priority Area Recommendations](#)
- [Louisiana Kids Dashboard](#)