

Louisiana Children's Cabinet

Located in the Office of the Governor, the Children's Cabinet's primary function is to synchronize children's policy across the five state departments providing services for young people: Children and Family Services, Departments of Education, Health and Hospitals, Office of Juvenile Justice and the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Working with these state agencies, as well as child advocates and action groups across Louisiana, the Children's Cabinet promotes coordination of services to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources. The Cabinet particularly supports programs for intervention and prevention and services that support children remaining in their homes and communities.

Programs and services to children and their families are provided by a myriad of state departments, offices and agencies, as well as many entities at the local level. Thus, 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. The focus of the Cabinet is to facilitate coordination of policy, planning and budgeting affecting programs and services for children and their families; to coordinate delivery of services to children and their families; and to eliminate duplication of services where appropriate.

The Children's Cabinet is responsible for recommendations to the Children's Budget, a separate section of the General Appropriation Act. The Children's Budget includes a compilation and listing of all appropriations contained in the Act which fund services and programs for children and their families.

The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board was established to provide information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups, service providers and parents to the Children's Cabinet.

Composition of the Children's Cabinet

The Louisiana Children's Cabinet is a thirteen-member body composed of agency secretaries, legislative members and community leaders. The cabinet shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.
- (2) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- (3) The deputy secretary for youth services of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
- (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.
- (5) The state superintendent of education.
- (6) The commissioner of administration.
- (7) The executive director of the cabinet, to be determined by the governor, who shall serve as chairperson.

(8) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(9) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.

(10) A representative of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board as selected by its members.

(11) A member of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges appointed by the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

(12) A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education appointed by its president.

(13) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development.

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board

The CCAB generally meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Governor's Press Room at the Louisiana State Capitol from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB) was created under Louisiana R. S. 46:2605. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups, service providers, and parents. The board consist of 42-45 statutorily authorized representatives from state agencies, advocacy groups and the community. Members of the board are appointed by the Governor. The CCAB shall be composed of the following members:

(1) A representative from Agenda for Children.

(2) A representative from the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund.

(3) A representative from Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana.

(4) A representative from the Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coalition.

(5) A representative from Louisiana Early Steps.

(6) A representative from the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

(7) The director of the State Head Start Collaboration Project.

(8) A representative from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board.

(9) A representative from Louisiana State University, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

(10) No fewer than three and no more than five parents nominated by agencies represented herein and approved by the cabinet.

(11) The assistant secretary of the office of community services of the Department of Children and Family Services.

- (12) The assistant secretary of the office of family support of Children and Family Services.
- (13) The assistant secretary of the office for citizens with developmental disabilities of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- (14) The assistant secretary of the office of public health of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- (15) The assistant secretary of the office of mental health of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- (16) The director of the bureau of health services financing of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- (17) A representative of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, to be designated by the executive director.
- (18) The assistant secretary of the office of juvenile justice of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
- (19) Three representatives of the Department of Education, to be designated by the superintendent as follows:
- (a) One member representing academic programs, including early childhood.
 - (b) One member representing special education.
 - (c) One member representing educational support programs including secondary vocational education.
- (20) A representative of the division of administration, as designated by the commissioner.
- (21) A member of the Louisiana Families In Need Of Services Association.
- (22) A member of the Louisiana Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association.
- (23) A member of the Louisiana Catholic Conference.
- (24) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System or his designee.
- (25) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, health care services division, or his designee.
- (26) A representative of the National Association of Social Workers.
- (27) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations.
- (28) A representative from the Louisiana Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics.

(29) The assistant secretary of the office for addictive disorders of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

(30) The president of the Louisiana Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry or his designee.

(31) A member of the Louisiana Assembly on School-Based Health Care.

(32) A member of the Louisiana Chapter of the March of Dimes.

(33) A representative of Families Helping Families.

(34) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Childcare Agencies.

(35) A representative of Louisiana Children's Advocacy Centers.

(36) A representative of the Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health at Tulane University.

(37) A representative of the Louisiana Primary Care Association.

(38) A representative of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families.

One of the primary objectives of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board is to offer recommendations to the Children's Cabinet on funding and budget priorities. To accomplish this objective, the Advisory Board has implemented a two-step process. The first step is an initial budget retreat in the early fall to articulate general budget priorities so that state agencies can have a unified focus when building their children's budget. As the second step, the state agencies present their specific programs and initiatives to the Advisory Board that address the general priorities. The Advisory Board then votes to identify their priority programs. The Children's Cabinet director compiles the specific budget priority recommendations from the Advisory Board and presents the report to the Cabinet.