

City of Lake Charles *Children's Summit* Mayor's Call to Action

November 20, 2008

Meeting Objective

THEME: "Connecting the Community for Children and Families"

□ <u>PURPOSE</u>:

GOAL 1: To create a forum for the discussion of ideas and best practices to improve the well being of children in Southwest Louisiana

Meeting Objective

PURPOSE: GOAL 2: To establish an action network to support the healthy development of children and families.

<u>GOAL 3</u>: To establish connections for children and families.

How do we compare?

When it comes to the future of a community or a state, nothing is more important than the wellbeing of its children - they are the future. But according to many indicators, Louisiana has not done well in providing an environment for their success.

For the last 6 years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation – a national child advocacy group has ranked measures of child well-being among all states in its annual KIDS COUNT Data Book.

□ Louisiana has ranked 49th for the last 5 years.

Some of the Reasons

- □ 50th for the number of infant deaths
- □ 49th babies born with low birth weight.
- 49th in three poverty-related factors: children in singleparent households - in households where no parent has fulltime year round employment - and in poverty
- Foster Care: increased by 20 percent in last three years. Foster homes declined by 38 percent. Hurricanes forced some foster families to downsize.
- Child Care: 65% of children under six have no "stay-athome" parent. 78% of children under 5 are cared for on a regular basis by someone else

Discussion Groups:
Group One, Top "3"

- 1. An organization that can enhance and promote coordination between service providers and serve as a vehicle for revenue development and marketing family services
- 2. "Hands On" volunteerism
- 3. Education on Resources Available

Discussion Groups:

■ Group Two, Top "3"

- 1. Extended hours program with tutors, transportation (supported by business community)
- 2. Provide some assistance for children with addictions
- 3. Marketing/awareness to families of ref. services (existing programs) (as they need it)

Discussion Groups:

■ Group Three, Top "3"

- 1. Education- Schools (health) Churches Clubs (scouts) Parent groups
- 2. Leadership accountability group
 - planning and development group
 - implementation
- 3. Media Exposure
 - This problem has been identified
 - These are the people addressing it
 - This is their plan
 - You can be a part of it

(CONT'D)

Discussion Groups:
Group Three, Top "3" (cont'd)

4. Monitor our progress

- reevaluate
- revised
- follow-up
- progress

5. Neighborhood projects [beautification] (sense of pride)

Discussion Groups: ■ Group Four, Top "3"

- 1. Promotion of and education about current programming being offered: parenting, obesity, smoking, crisis services, choice skill mentoring, behavioral changes
- 2. Better utilize existing current facilities to provide more safe and engaging programs with transportation home: Washington-Marion homework, Impact Lake Charles, Team 5
- 3. Go where the people who need services gather: festivals, church, have a "block party," or BBQ



Let's Begin

Louisiana's Children's Cabinet

- The Children's Cabinet is a policy office in the Office of the Governor
- Coordinates children's policy across the five departments that provide services for young people: DOE, DHH,DSS Labor, Public Safety and Office of Youth Services
- Makes recommendations to the Governor on funding priorities for children and youth.
- The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board provides information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups, service providers, and parents to the Children's Cabinet.



Purpose and Vision

Children's Cabinet Vision Statement

Louisiana will be a state where all its children and youth can reach their full potential.

Children's Cabinet Mission Statement

The Children's Cabinet will produce measurable improvements for children and youth in: Education, Health Care and Family Life.

Children's Cabinet Goals

1) To create a seamless system of care through the integration of services and resources.

2) To effectively and efficiently utilize monetary, human, and organizational resources.

 3) To achieve measurable improvements in the outcomes of all children in Louisiana.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Action Plans Access to Services

- Strategy 1.1 Establish a system of comprehensive integrated services for early childhood that includes mental health, childcare, physical health and family support in collaboration with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Initiative.
- Strategy 1.2 Implement the "No Wrong Door" concept for services to children and families.
- Strategy 1.3 Establish a quality juvenile justice system built on data and best practices that includes graduated sanctions and a comprehensive continuum of services.
- Strategy 1.4 Strengthen the Interagency Service Coordination process to more effectively serve children with complex needs.
- Strategy 1.5 Collaborate with local communities, through partnerships with Children and Youth Planning Boards.

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The Children's Cabinet, Inc. Reno, Nevada

- Established in December 1985, with the mission of creating a lasting public-private partnership to address the needs of children and families.
- This unique commitment to public-private partnerships provides a foundation for the Cabinet's organizational strength by being able to respond quickly to the changing needs of the community and to bring about true collaboration in the delivery of service.
- □ Today, the Cabinet serves more than 15,000 children and families each year.
- □ <u>http://www.childrenscabinet.org/</u>

Asset-Based Community Development

This process can be defined by three simple, interrelated characteristics:

First principle: It is "asset-based." It answers the following questions:

- What services/resources are present in the community?
- What are the capacities of its residents and workers?
- What is the associational and institutional base of the area?
- It is not focused on what is absent, or what is problematic, or what the community needs.

Asset-Based Community Development

- Second Principle: It is by necessity "internally focused."
- It concentrates upon the agenda building and problem-solving capacities of local residents, associations and institutions.
- However it does not minimize either the role external forces have played in helping to create the desperate conditions experienced by children and families in the area, nor the need to attract additional resources to these help them.
- Intended to stress the primacy of local definition, investment, creativity, hope and control.

Asset-Based Community Development

Third Principle: It will be "relationship driven."

One of the central challenges for asset-based community developers is to constantly build and rebuild the relationships between and among local residents, local associations and local institutions.