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# 22nd Judicial District Children and Youth Planning Board

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Members (Appointed to a 2 year term by respective parish governments)

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Louisiana Children's Cabinet

<http://www.gov.state.la.us/ldbc/childrenscabinet/ChildrensHome.asp>

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Legislative Act Establishing Children and Youth Planning Boards

# Act No. 555

## AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1941.1, 1941.2, 1941.5, and 1941.8 and to repeal R.S. 46:1941.3(1), 1941.4, 1941.6, 1941.7, 1941.9 through 1941.13, relative to youth services; to provide for the creation of children and youth planning boards; to provide for the purpose of such boards; to provide with respect to membership; to repeal provisions of law providing for parish youth services programs; to repeal provisions providing for parish youth services subsidy program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:1941.1, 1941.2, 1941.5, and 1941.8 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

### PART III. PARISH CHILDREN AND YOUTH PLANNING BOARDS

§1941.1. Short title

The provisions of this Part shall be known as the "Parish Children and Youth Planning Boards Act".

§1941.2. Purpose; role of Children's Cabinet

- A. The purpose of the children and youth planning boards is to assist in the assessment, alignment, coordination, prioritization, and measurement of all available services and programs that address the needs of children and youth. This includes children and youth at risk for, or identified with, social, emotional, or developmental problems, including, but not limited to educational failure, abuse, neglect, exposure to violence, juvenile or parental mental illness, juvenile or parental substance abuse, poverty, developmental disabilities and delinquency. The boards are intended to encourage collaborative efforts among local stakeholders for assessing the physical, social, behavioral, and educational needs of children and youth in their respective communities and for assisting in the development of comprehensive plans to address such needs. The infrastructure for planning is intended to be data-driven in order to select appropriate evidence-based programs which will maximize available resources.
- B. The legislature authorizes the establishment of children and youth planning boards to assist in the development, implementation, and operation of services which encourage positive development, diversion of children and youth from the criminal justice and the foster care system, reduction in the commitments of youth to state institutions, and providing community response to the growing rate of juvenile delinquency. The coordination and implementation of services shall include, but are not limited to prevention, early intervention, diversion, alternatives to home displacement, alternatives to incarceration, and treatment services. Through such boards, the state intends to foster and promote a continuum of community-based services and systems reflecting service integration at the state and community or local levels.
- C. The role of the Children's Cabinet shall be to facilitate the creation of children and youth planning boards by offering guidance and technical assistance to local communities and governing authorities including, but not limited to resource identification, needs assessments, monitoring and performance evaluation, strategic planning and other forms of assistance and support.

§1941.5. Participation

- A. There shall be a children and youth planning board created and established in each judicial district by enactment of appropriate resolutions by the governing authority of each parish in that district. The board shall provide for the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and operation of services for children and youth.
- B. Nothing herein shall mandate a parish governing authority to fund the operational expenses of the board.

C. Nothing herein shall prevent a single parish or group of parishes from establishing an advisory board which would report to a youth services planning board.

§1941.8. Children and youth services advisory boards; members; duties

A. Each planning board shall consist of a minimum of eleven, but not more than twenty-five members. Special care should be given in the appointments to ensure that the board is representative of the community in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, and geography, as well as knowledge and expertise. Those appointed shall include the following, if available and willing to serve, but need not be limited to:

(1) Members of the education community that are representative of and knowledgeable about early childhood, elementary, secondary, and special education.

(2) Members of the criminal justice community that are representative of and knowledgeable about law enforcement, prosecution, public defense, and the judiciary. Wherever possible, a member of the judiciary elected to the juvenile court bench should be included.

(3) Members of the health care community that are representative of and knowledgeable about physical health, mental health, and early childhood substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

(4) Members of the social services community that are representative of and knowledgeable about child in need of care services, foster parenting, and child and family support programs.

(5) Members of the faith-based communities.

(6) Members of the business and labor communities.

(7) Members of parenting and youth organizations.

B. The parish governing authority shall make the appointments for a period of two years. In the case of a judicial district which encompasses more than one parish, cooperating parish governing authorities may formulate a plan of representation and may add representatives to the board from each participating parish.

C. (1) The children and youth planning boards shall actively participate in the formulation of a comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and operation of services for children and youth and make formal recommendations to the parish governing authority or joint parish governing authorities at least annually concerning the comprehensive plan and its implementation during the ensuing year.

(2) In its formulation of the comprehensive plan, the children and youth planning boards shall do all of the following, but shall not be limited to the following:

- (a) Identify all resources available to meet the needs of children and youth by comprehensively examining resources and services that target children and youth. These services may include, but are not limited to prevention, early intervention, education, and treatment.
- (b) Assess the needs of children and youth in the local community, incorporating reliable data sources.
- (c) Develop and select the appropriate evidence-based strategies or programs to meet those needs identified by soliciting community input and developing a strategic plan to best address the needs of children and youth in the respective community. This strategic plan should have measurable goals and objectives and should be evaluated annually to ensure its effectiveness.
- (d) Collaborate with schools, law enforcement, judicial system, health care providers, and others to ensure goals and treatment needs are being met.
- (e) Ensure effective delivery of prevention programs in the community through training, technical assistance, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure effective outcomes are achieved.
- (f) Report annually by October first to the office of youth services and the Children's Cabinet the results of such assessments. Performance indicators and benchmarks from the reports will be used for planning at both the state and community levels.

D. All proceedings of the children and youth planning boards and any committee or subgroup thereof, shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 42:4.1 and 42:10, and all votes taken of members shall be recorded and shall become matters of public record.

E. The boards shall promulgate and implement rules concerning attendance of members at board meetings. The members may also elect their own officers.