



In 2004, the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families began operations as a groundbreaking initiative to provide a stronger voice for children and families. Following more than two years of discussions, planning and development, two statewide organizations, the YouWho Coalition and the Louisiana Alliance for Children and Families, merged forming the nucleus of the Partnership. These two groups illustrated the fragmented pockets of well-intentioned advocacy groups throughout Louisiana, focusing on pertinent issues but in a disorganized manner and achieving limited successes. The amicable union of these groups and other key advocacy partners continues to lead the Partnership's effort today.

The strength of the Partnership is anchored in its committed board of directors who guide the organization. The board is enhanced by decades of child advocacy experience in Louisiana, with board representatives from the National Association of Social Workers, American Academy of Pediatrics, former Executive Director of the Maternal and Child Health Coalition, statewide and local United Way leadership, and other recognized community leaders from across the state.

Past and current initiatives include:

- Commission of the "**The Louisiana Early Childhood Public Opinion Survey**" with key findings supporting the need for improving child care (2006)
- Led passage in 2007 of the nation's most unique set of tax credits, **School Readiness Tax Credit**, bringing together a strong alliance of collaborators including the United Way(s) of Louisiana, Child Care Association of LA, LANO, CABL and other leading organizations. Tax credits now total about \$14 million annually and are used to leverage federal funding --- *one of only two tax credits that bring funding into the state.*
- The Partnership's report, **Investing in Early Childhood: A Roadmap to Economic Success for Louisiana**, outlined economic reasons for supporting early childhood efforts. (2009)
- Developed the **Louisiana Parenting Education Network (LAPEN)** that piloted the statewide implementation of **Triple P Positive Parenting Program**, the **Louisiana Alliance for Shared Services** that provided support for early childhood programs, and the **Policy Institute** that focused on early childhood education. The Partnership returned to its original focus of advocacy in 2014, but successfully transitioned these critical programs to different organizations and they continue operations today.
- Led development of the **2015 Platform for Children**, in partnership with Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, louisianachildren.org, NASW/LA Chapter, Louisiana Budget Project, Agenda for Children and other key child advocacy organizations. This document was shared with all individuals who sought elective office in 2015 and has been widely distributed within the current administration. The dissemination of the Platform for Children was supported through the Blue Cross Blue Shield "Angels for Change" grant award.
- Provided **top leadership** to the Louisiana Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, with four current board members having chaired the Advisory Board.
- Key supporter in the development of the **Louisiana Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Initiative**, led by Tulane Institute for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

- Convenes **regional meetings annually across the state** with key service providers, early childhood professionals, and community leaders to provide policy updates, identify gaps in services and craft local solutions. The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation is a key supporter of the regional meetings that are held in nine cities across the state.
- Continued **public policy advocacy** on a broad range of issues including child health, child welfare and early care and education, with weekly updates during the legislative session on bills affecting children and families
- Annual membership meeting featuring a **Legislative Wrap-up on Children's Issues** held each June, following the end of the legislative session and providing an informative website (www.louisianapartnership.org) with current events, documents, frequent updates and links features latest information on the well-being of children and families. This is the only legislative wrap-up focused solely on children and family issues.
- Provided **critical leadership and coordination for child care** following the 2016 Flooding. The Partnership convened national, state and local partners to develop a useful map showing centers that suffered damage from flooding and worked to provide assistance in seeking funding to restore child care.

Board of Directors

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