



# **Prepare for the Children: A Critical Phase of Recovery**

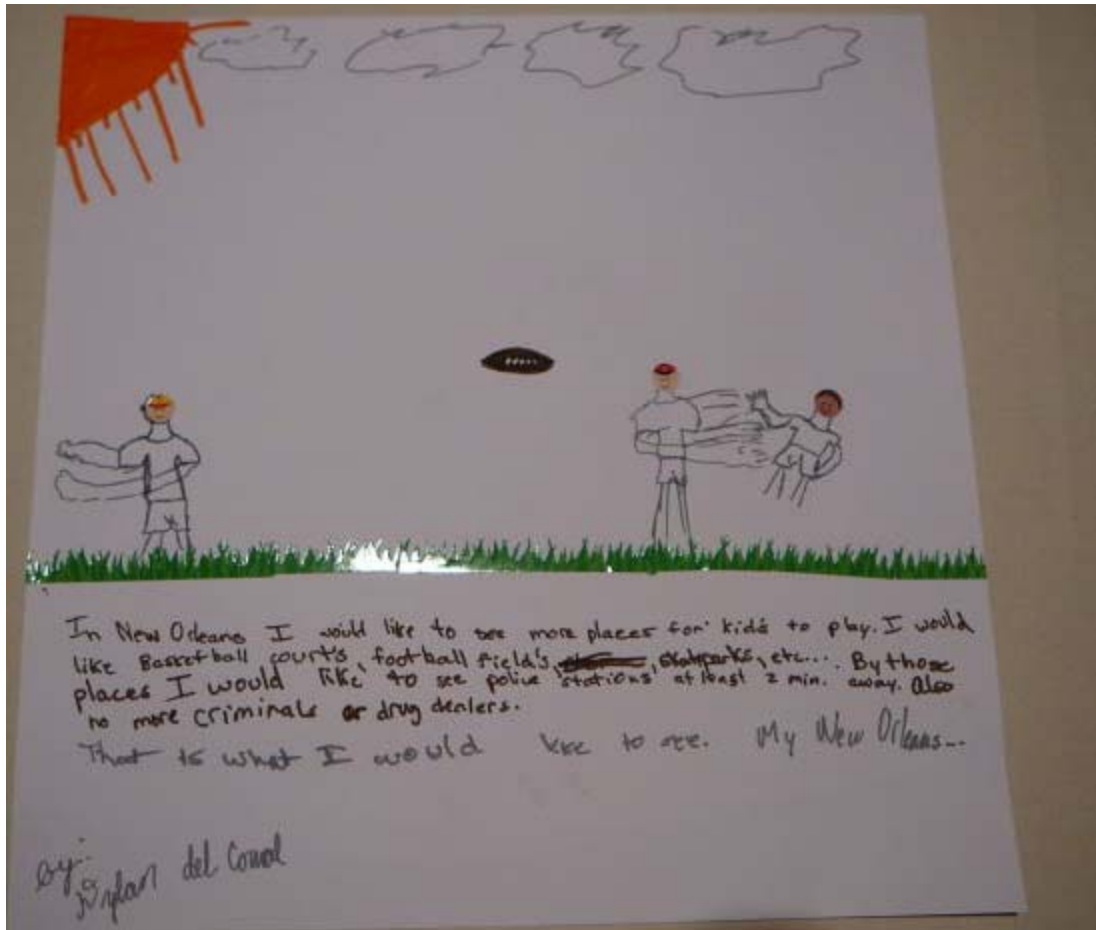
**Meeting Summary; Opportunities and Next Steps  
September 2006**



*Funding for this work is provided by the generous support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.*

## ***Acknowledgements***

The Center for Empowered Decision Making and CommonHealth ACTION are indebted to the thoughtful children who graciously shared their wisdom with us regarding the future of New Orleans. We remain committed to making their dreams for a better community come true.



## ***About the Sponsors***

CommonHealth ACTION is a national, non-profit organization located in Washington, DC ([www.commonhealthaction.org](http://www.commonhealthaction.org)). The Center for Empowered Decision Making is a community-based, nonprofit organization serving the New Orleans and Baton Rouge communities ([www.healthyneworleans.org](http://www.healthyneworleans.org)). This collaboration is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support post-Katrina recovery efforts in Louisiana.

## Prepare for the Children: A Critical Phase of Recovery Meeting Summary; Opportunities and Next Steps September 2006

### Overview

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina New Orleans struggles to meet the basic needs of returning children and families. As of January 2006, only approximately 210,000 people were living in the city<sup>1</sup>. While new population estimates will not be available until mid September 2006, as the recovery process continues a year after the storm, more schools and businesses are opening, and children and their families are slowly returning to New Orleans.

In response to concerns expressed by a number of children's service providers the New Orleans-based Center for Empowered Decision Making and CommonHealth ACTION



convened a two-part meeting in August 2006. This meeting included school-age children and representatives from over 25 community-based and governmental organizations whose missions involved supporting children and families. The meeting dialogue specifically focused on the future of the city's recovery efforts.

During part one of the meeting, and prior to convening service providers, we convened youth representatives to inform the focus of the meeting. The advice from youth participants was an effective means of ensuring the meeting discussions addressed the needs of children living in New Orleans. We interviewed 13 young

people between the ages of eight and 16 from the New Orleans area and asked them to tell us their vision for the city's future. The group included eight black children, three white children, and two Asian children (mean age: 11.8 years). The children were enrolled in public and private schools. We asked them to create a collage, write a story, or poem, or find another means to express their thoughts on the questions we posed.

<sup>1</sup> Rapid Population Estimate Project. Emergency Operations Center, City Of New Orleans. See Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, January, 2006.

We filmed them while they explained what they created asking each child the following questions:

- What would you like for the future of New Orleans to be?
- What would be different?
- What would you want it to look like?
- If you could tell adults what they should focus on to best help kids, what would it be?

Through their artwork and interviews, the children were eager to share their insight about the future. Five public policy themes emerged; themes appear in order of importance and priority given by the children:

1. **Safety** - The children are concerned about crime. They are concerned about personal safety and security. They want more police protection and are concerned about strangers in unsettled neighborhoods; these same places they use to know everyone. The children are concerned about drugs in community. They want to feel safe from future storms.
2. **Improved Schools** - Interviewees experienced schools in Houston and Florida and now have increased expectations. They want more teachers and better teachers. They want schools that look better instead of the current states of disrepair, with infestations of rodents, flies, and roaches in the cafeterias and classrooms. They want kids to be supported better. They want a learning environment that supports their growth and expectations for achievement.
3. **Places to Play, Things to Do** - The children want and need safe places to play. They want organized play efforts [team sports]. They believe that idleness is part of the reason there is so much violence in the city. Much debris remains in the streets; they lack safe places to play outside. They want more playgrounds.
4. **Clean Environment & City** - They want the trash removed and the city to be clean like many other cities. They want the city to look like it deserves its reputation as a great city with a great arts community and culture. They want it to be a great city for children.
5. **Plan, Prepare, Protect** - The children don't want New Orleans to be caught unprepared for the next storm. All these things need to be thought about and everyone; every family should know precisely what to do in the event of another emergency.



## **Prepare for the Children: Part-Two – Meeting of Service Providers**

The meeting commenced with a networking dinner the prior evening. Joseph Hawes, MD, MPH, former Minister of Health for the island of Montserrat in the West Indies, shared lessons learned about the massive and long-term evacuation of Monsterratians following the volcanic eruption on the small island. He made comparisons of the parallels identified in terms of population shifts, and changing post disaster environments of both cities. Dr. Hawes encouraged New Orleanians to develop and communicate to local, state and federal governments clearer expectations and strategies for improved public support in the form of “comprehensive relocation packages” should future evacuations from the area become necessary.

The following day, we convened organizations with responsibility for providing services to children and families from across the city. This structured dialogue was designed to:

- ✓ Characterize current programs and services available to facilitate children and families to return and thrive (schools, mental health, health care, faith community, etc.)
- ✓ Identify gaps in programs and services
- ✓ Present opportunities to address gaps
- ✓ Develop a specific plan of action to enhance program and service gaps
- ✓ Identify leadership to advance collaborative action



### **Findings and Recommendations**

Participants identified significant challenges facing children and families in the long recovery effort. The input from meeting participants directly supports the themes that emerged from the children’s interviews and artwork. Several participants voiced commitment to the creation of a more formal structure to develop and implement a city-wide strategic plan to improve coordination of services for children and families. Table I contains potential strategies identified and discussed for consideration.

### **Next Steps**

1. We promised to share the draft resource list created during the meeting. Additionally, we promised to share the contact list of all participants. Both documents are included herein.
2. Informed by the meeting deliberations, we propose an organizational structure with a Steering Committee and five subcommittees:
  - a. Plan, Prepare and Protect Committee
  - b. Family Services Committee
  - c. Improved Schools Committee
  - d. Safer, Cleaner City Committee
  - e. Places to Play, Things to Do Committee

The committees can be reorganized or renamed as needed once the Steering Committee meets to establish the structure. The Family Services Committee could include but not be limited to entities that comprised the children's collaborative (now defunct). Subcommittees would have identified leaders to ensure progress, and convene on a quarterly basis. Honoring the group's suggestions, the Center for Empowered Decision Making and CommonHealth ACTION would like to reconvene this group to establish consensus on recommendations. As indicated we will assist with setting up a formal Steering Committee Structure, timeline for establishing subcommittees that will take responsibility for each of the themes, and an overall timeline for the partnership.

### **Reflections on the Prepare for the Children Experience**

Developing and implementing the Prepare for the Children meeting posed unique challenges. During the planning phase, CHA and CEDM leveraged contacts throughout the



city to identify organizations and individuals who should attend. Considering our organizations were not at the forefront on children's issues we were careful to be respectful, inclusive and strategic in our invitations.

Initially, based on input from our interactions with providers over the past year, we had concerns that "meeting fatigue" would inhibit participation of local advocates. Many individuals we spoke with shared their dismay regarding an emerging pattern of "many meetings

with great dialogue but no action", and the overall lack of resources, action plans, and outcomes. Additionally, in light of post-Katrina activities associated with competing priorities, limited resources, and racial and economic tensions, we were unsure about the usefulness and overall timing of this meeting.

The first meeting activities involved interviewing and filming children from New Orleans. With the assistance of Mosanda Mvula, MD, New Orleans Health Department; Shelia Webb, PhD, CEDM; and Maxine Kimbrell, MSW, Metropolitan Human Services District, we identified thirteen children and their parents to participate in the interviews. The parents and children were eager to share their experiences, emotions, and thoughts regarding the future of New Orleans. It was clear during the interviews that the children have seen and experienced Hurricane Katrina in ways that have forced them to be thoughtful and future-focused. They were prepared to share their perspectives on what should be the areas of focus for adults and policy makers. We edited and showed the video during the meeting to



ground our discussion and to remind the participants why they were there. The children's point of view was very compelling and set the tone of urgency for the discussions that followed.

Quite understandably, meeting participants had a need to vent displaying a great deal of frustration during group dialogue. Numerous times throughout the meeting, individuals over-wrought with emotion expressed hurt and frustration related to all that was lost in the Hurricane (tangible and intangible), the lack of progress made in the city, their personal struggles, and the lack of clarity about the future of the city. Many of those in attendance had sacrificed at the expense of the personal recovery of their families to invest their time and energy to keep the city running. Several members of the group mentioned the dire need for mental health services for people surviving in the aftermath of the hurricane, including service providers.

The energy in the meeting throughout the day often changed from emotional to contentious. There were a multitude of backgrounds and perspectives shared by representatives of the over 25 organizations present. There were good-natured and often heated debates about priorities related to preparing for the return of children to New Orleans. Towards the latter part of the day, there was a call to action on the agenda. During this time, the divisions in the room became clearer.

We posed the question of whether the group was interested in moving forward to pursue collective activity to address the return of children to New Orleans. The majority of attendees said yes but no one person or entity stepped forward to assume leadership. One participant suggested that the group reestablish the now defunct Children's Services Collaborative. Minimal support met that suggestion. Several participants voiced concerns about impeding effective progress by resurrecting a collaborative model, and recommended the creation of a new, unfettered entity.



We believe the hesitancy to assume the leadership role stemmed from people generally being overwhelmed as well as from the lack of immediate funding for any sustained and meaningful outcomes. It was clear that the people assembled at the Prepare for the Children meeting want and are in need of a venue to gather as a community to address those issues most important to the children and families they serve.

Meeting evaluations and anecdotal feedback indicate that participants appreciated the opportunity the meeting afforded them for networking, learning, sharing, and connecting with the myriad of efforts taking place in the city. Many participants requested that CEDM

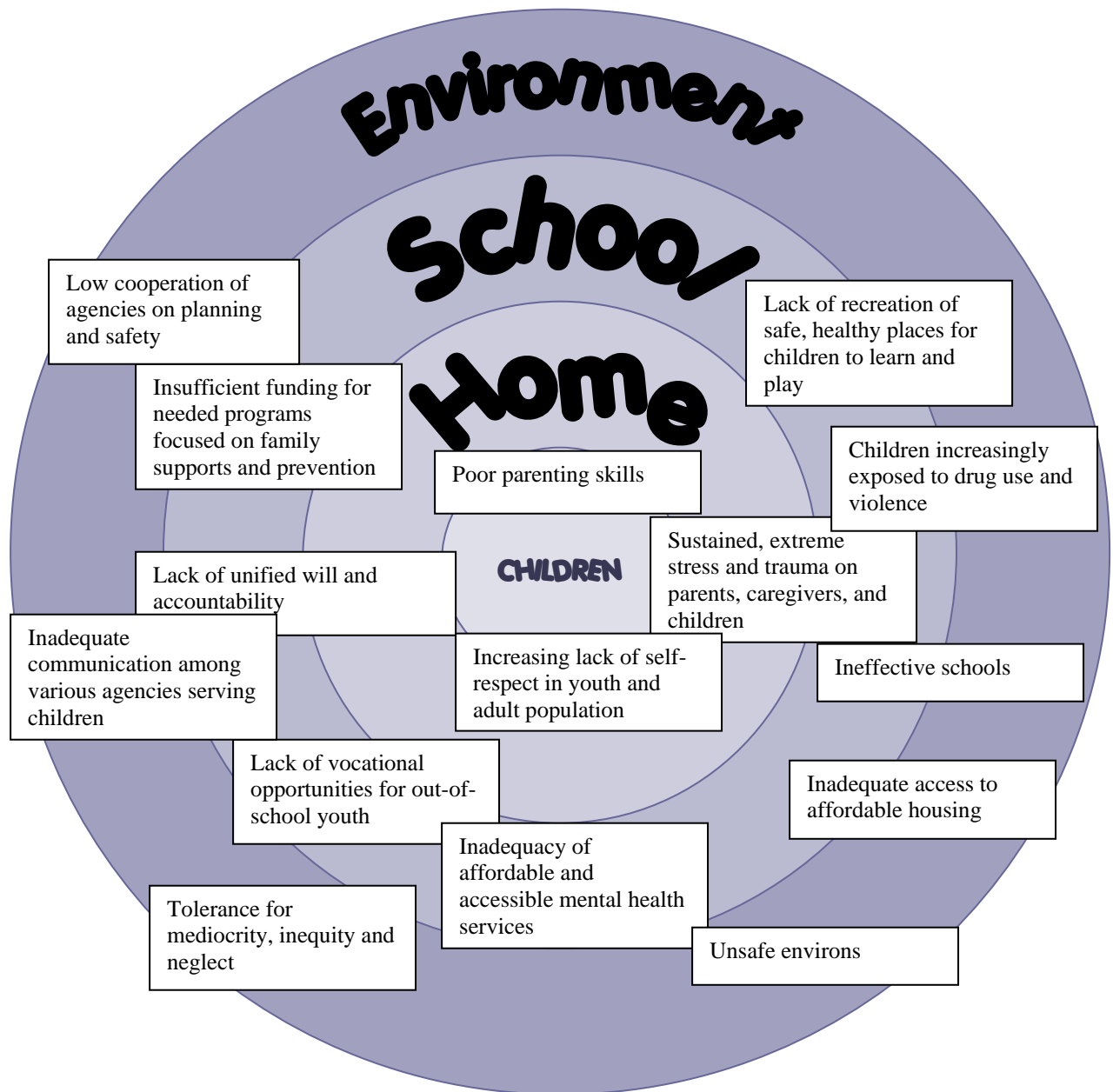
and CHA sponsor another meeting as soon as possible to continue the discussion and to explore options to secure funding for future action plans developed by the group.

Based on the interest expressed during and after the meeting (via e-mail and phone calls), it is clear there is additional work needed to prepare for the successful return and support of



families and children in the city of New Orleans. The current lack of coordination and information sharing limits successful action and outcomes for children. A unique opportunity exists for facilitating the work needed. We are committed to assisting entities collaborate to make the progress necessary to create the future the children of New Orleans deserve.

# Challenges in a post-Katrina environ



**Table 1: Strategies for Consideration**

| Possible Strategies & Opportunities   | Proposed Committee Lead   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconvene this group to develop a set of strategies and identify leadership re accountability/implementation</li> <li>• Examine the history of the children’s services collaborative and leverage successes</li> <li>• Research, identify synergies and collaborate with other groups with like purposes, such as Child Focused Non-Profits.</li> <li>• Reconvene relevant partners to revamp current mental health service delivery systems, including wrap-around services</li> <li>• Establish a services resource guide/data book and online resources for entire community and those displaced</li> <li>• Formalize with membership or other commitment</li> <li>• Develop a system to share information and communicate with the public</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee</li> </ul>                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ a decision-making model that balances consensus with accountability</li> <li>• Better define goals for children; prioritize capacity building needs</li> <li>• Identify existing programs and establish new resources</li> <li>• Strengthen coalition of advocates for all children and address inequity issues</li> <li>• Create a strategic comprehensive health plan for the community inclusive of physical, social, mental and spiritual health</li> <li>• Establish vision statement to secure buy-in and frame goals</li> <li>• Continue to develop collaborative partnership</li> <li>• Reconvene strategic dialogue and action agenda setting with subcommittees</li> <li>• Provide organized opportunities to enhance networking</li> <li>• Continually present community needs to this group and others and identify needs directly from the community</li> <li>• Better coordinate the funding streams that are already in place</li> <li>• Use PSAs to inform community of available services</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee and Subcommittee Leaders</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore city progress on inclusive recreational and extracurricular activities for all children</li> <li>• Show children’s video to city council</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Places to Play, Things to Do Committee</li> </ul>      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with neighborhood planning groups to advocate for neighborhood schools</li> <li>• To open better schools now, support better teacher training</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved Schools Committee</li> </ul>                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track housing initiatives backed by city council and share information</li> <li>• Request city emergency response officials come and present city’s evacuation plans at next meeting</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan, Prepare and Protect Committee</li> </ul>         |

| Possible Strategies & Opportunities  | Proposed Committee Lead   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish comprehensive health and mental health services in schools</li> <li>• Revitalize strategic planning and coordinate body for social services (include wraparound)</li> <li>• Work directly with youth via schools and other venues</li> <li>• Work with children who do not live with their parents</li> <li>• Increase cultural competency training for mental health providers</li> <li>• Help the many grandparents who are raising children</li> <li>• Establish more parenting classes/better approaches</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Services Committee</li> </ul>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It makes sense to combine these topics. Identify youth leaders who wish to inform an action agenda for this committee</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer, Cleaner City Committee</li> </ul> |

## **Resource List Provided by Meeting Participants (Work in Progress)**

- ACORN has published a list of social services
- Save the Children
- Louisiana Spirit
- Care committee has a list of agencies that are operating in NO;
- Funded by BCM – After School Collaborative – Gina Warner
- Community Based Health Services – [www.noladashboard.org](http://www.noladashboard.org)
- Non-profit Central – Lisa Kaichen
- Craig’s list – [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org) (look for LA)
- Children’s Defense Fund – Freedom Schools (after school activities)
- Pyramid Community Parent Resource
- New Orleans Recreation Dept. – NO Ballet Association (ballet & tap); football; volleyball for girls – [www.cityofno.com](http://www.cityofno.com)
- Family Service of Greater New Orleans – [www.fsgno.org](http://www.fsgno.org)
- Louisiana Department of Education – [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net)
- Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD) – [www.mhsdla.org](http://www.mhsdla.org)
- LSU Health Sciences Center – three relevant programs (0-5 trauma issues); Victims assistance program (0-17); School outreach; [www.lsuhscc.edu](http://www.lsuhscc.edu)
- Total Community Action – [www.tca-nola.org](http://www.tca-nola.org)
- Louisiana Children’s Museum
- NOAH – New Orleans Adolescent Hospital – inpatient facility for children; system of community clinics
- Louisiana Family Recovery Corps – coordinating body for all services across the state – [www.recoverycorps.org](http://www.recoverycorps.org); New web page: [www.louisianaspirit.org](http://www.louisianaspirit.org) – services will be listed by parish.
- Early childhood supports and services – only in Orleans Parish (0-6) – holistic approach, one-stop shop. Web Site: [www.ecss.org](http://www.ecss.org).
- LA-YES – [www.layes.org](http://www.layes.org) (3 – 21)
- Head-off Environmental Asthma in Louisiana – Dr. Mvula – 658-2500
- Great New Orleans Community Data Centre – [www.GNOCDC.org](http://www.GNOCDC.org)
- LSU AGcenter – [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

- Agenda for Children – Louisiana covering Kids and Family (LACHIP and Medicaid – 0 to 19 and pregnant women); [www.lacoveringkids.org](http://www.lacoveringkids.org); [www.agendaforchildren.org](http://www.agendaforchildren.org) – childcare resource and referral (after school, daycare, and summer camp). Maps and parent, and childcare training. Kidscount – statistical information.
- Covenant House – re-opened the New Orleans site, near the French Quarter.
- New Orleans Health Department – Healthy Start, Ryan White – will research questions about health issues in the city – 658-2500.
- Red Cross; Salvation; CAN – Coordinated Assistance Network
- Juvenile Justice Project of LA –
- Youth Empowerment Project – comprehensive case management for young people in contact with the justice program; new literacy program – GED prep.
- CASA – Court Assisted Special Advocates
- Mayor’s Domestic Violence Task Force
- WIC and Commodities Food Program
- Children’s Bureau – [www.childrens-bureau.com](http://www.childrens-bureau.com)
- Success by Six (United Way)
- Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
- Global Facilitators Service Corps – international group that goes in to cities worldwide to help train facilitators – [www.globalfacilitators.org](http://www.globalfacilitators.org); Nola Network
- Louisiana Assembly for School-Based Health Centers – through LPHI there is now a comprehensive school-based health programs; [www.lphi.org](http://www.lphi.org)
- VOA – Volunteers of America – [www.voa.org](http://www.voa.org)
- New Orleans Job Corps
- Kingsley House
- Universities and academic institutions provide resources for counseling, etc. (need more detail) – use Lorelie’s information. SSS – Upward Bound
- New Orleans Public Schools – parental and community empowerment services and training.
- Catholic Community Services
- Associated Catholic Charities
- Trinity Counseling – individual and family therapy on a sliding fee scale
- Toomey Center – Loyola – teaching teachers and parents conflict resolution ([www.loyno.edu/twomey](http://www.loyno.edu/twomey))
- Raintree Children and Family Services –
- ARC – daycare services and early step services
- YAP (Young Adult Program) – Department of Social Services
- Xavier University – Family Life Program
- Jefferson Parish Human Services

- Department of Health and Hospitals (Early Steps Part C – for children with disabilities 0 to 3).
- Harris Infant Mental Health Program (0 to 5) – non-trauma behavioral problems; LSU Infant Team – OCS (children 0 to 5)
- Children’s Cabinet – Governor’s Office
- GAP – Greater Advantage Plan (under the school board – looking at educational disparities; focus on pre-schoolers)
- Department of Social Services – solutions to poverty
- Taskforce on Child Sexual Abuse – Care center out of Children’s Hospital
- Mass care Committee – Emergency Operation Center
- Task force on Re-entry
- Louisiana Community-Based Service Network – collaborative (Non-profit Knowledge Works)
- Care Committee – long-term recovery
- Mercy Corps – international organization
- Operation Blessing – primary health care
- Tambourine and Fan – Jerome Smith (works with at-risk youth; youth leadership development; bringing displaced youth back into the city for summer activities)
- Joint Center Health Policy – Design Lab Team
- [www.unop.org](http://www.unop.org) – United New Orleans Planning project (email – citywide planning efforts)

*Note: In next resource iteration, list age groups that the agencies serve.*



**Prepare for the Children  
AGENDA  
Wyndham New Orleans at Canal Place  
Thursday, August 3, 2006  
9:00a to 5:00p**

**MEETING GOALS**

- ✓ Characterize current programs and services available to facilitate children and families to return and thrive (schools, mental health, health care, faith community, etc.)
- ✓ Identify gaps in programs and services
- ✓ Present opportunities to address gaps
- ✓ Develop a specific plan of action to enhance program and service gaps
- ✓ Identify leadership to advance collaborative action

**Thursday, AUGUST 3, 2006**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:50a   | <b>BREAKFAST &amp; WELCOME</b>   |
| 9:50 – 11:00a  | <b>INTRODUCTIONS &amp; SHARING/PROGRAM ACTIVITIES &amp; SERVICES</b>         |
| 11:00 – 11:15a | Break  |
| 11:15 – 12:15p | <b>IDENTIFICATION OF CHALLENGES TO THE RETURN OF CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES</b> |
| 12:15 – 1:00p  | <b>CHARTING ACTIVITIES &amp; SERVICES/IDENTIFYING GAPS</b>                   |
| 1:00 – 1:45p   | Working Lunch: <b>DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE FOR CHILDREN</b>      |
| 1:45 – 2:30p   | <b>IDENTIFY LEADERSHIP &amp; CALL TO ACTION</b>                              |
| 2:30 – 3:30p   | <b>STARTING THE ACTION PLAN</b>  |
| 3:30 – 3:40p   | Break  |
| 3:40 – 5:00p   | <b>SOLIDIFYING THE ACTION PLAN</b>   |
| 5:00p          | Adjourn  |

## Prepare for the Children: Participant List

Maria Alexander  
Education Director  
ACORN  
1024 Elysian Fields  
New Orleans, LA 70117  
Phone: (504) 943-0044  
Email: [nolaeducation@acorn.org](mailto:nolaeducation@acorn.org)  
[www.acorn.org](http://www.acorn.org)

Deborah Alston  
Louisiana Spirit, Catholic Charities  
1000 Howard Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 485-3414  
Email: [dedorah@hotmail.com](mailto:dedorah@hotmail.com)

Michael Andry  
CEO  
EXCELth, Inc.  
1515 Poydras Street  
Suite 1070  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 524-1210  
Email: [mandry@excelth.com](mailto:mandry@excelth.com)

Gilda Armstrong-Butler  
Deputy Executive Director  
DHH/OMH/Louisiana Spirit Hurricane  
Recovery Program  
2751 Wooddale Boulevard  
Suite 2779  
Baton Rouge, LA 70805  
Phone: (225) 922-3251  
Email: [gabutler@dhh.la.gov](mailto:gabutler@dhh.la.gov)  
[www.LouisianaSpirit.org](http://www.LouisianaSpirit.org)

Molly Baker  
Children's Team Crisis Counselor  
LA Spirit  
1000 Howard Avenue  
New Orleans, LA  
Phone: (504) 462-0546  
Email: [mollydbaker@gmail.com](mailto:mollydbaker@gmail.com)

Todd Battiste  
VP Children and Families  
United Way  
2515 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
Phone: (504) 827-6852  
Email: [toddb@unitedwaynola.org](mailto:toddb@unitedwaynola.org)  
[www.unitedwaynola.org](http://www.unitedwaynola.org)

Mary Bliss  
Early Childhood Teacher  
916 Smith Drive  
Metairie, LA 70005  
Phone: (504) 214-2282  
Email: [marybliss@cox.net](mailto:marybliss@cox.net)

Elizabeth Branley  
Health Communication & Media  
Coordinator  
New Orleans Health Department  
1515 Poydras Street  
Suite 1200  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 301-9853  
Email: [ebbranley@lphi.org](mailto:ebbranley@lphi.org)  
[www.lphi.org](http://www.lphi.org)

Natalie Burke  
Principal  
CommonHealth ACTION  
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: (202) 327.5494  
Email: [nburke@commonhealthaction.org](mailto:nburke@commonhealthaction.org)  
[www.commonhealthaction.org](http://www.commonhealthaction.org)

Danielle Burrell  
Graduate Assistant  
University of New Orleans  
PO Box 750616  
New Orleans, LA 70175-0616  
Phone: (504) 975-1555  
Email: [dsburre1@uno.edu](mailto:dsburre1@uno.edu)

Cathy Chase  
Extended Day Coordinator  
Orleans Parish School Board  
401 Nashville Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
Phone: (504) 228-8576  
Email: [cathy\\_chase@nops.k12.la.us](mailto:cathy_chase@nops.k12.la.us)  
[www.nops.k12.la.us](http://www.nops.k12.la.us)

Tracy Cormier  
Children's Team Clinical Manager  
Louisiana Spirit Hurricane Recovery  
Phone: (504) 310-8748  
Email: [psislidell@yahoo.com](mailto:psislidell@yahoo.com)

Lorelei Cropley  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Educational Leadership,  
Counseling, Foundations and Health  
Promotion  
Education Building, Room 348  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans,, LA 70148  
Phone: (504) 460-1326  
Email: [lcropley@uno.edu](mailto:lcropley@uno.edu)

Juan Cruz  
Project Coordinator  
LA Assembly of School Based Health  
Centers  
POB 5229  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
Phone: (225) 246.8490  
Email: [juan@culturaldynamics.org](mailto:juan@culturaldynamics.org)

James Evans  
Deputy Director of Operations  
Total Community Action, Inc.  
1420 So. Jefferson Davis Parkway  
New Orleans, LA 70125  
Phone: (504) 366-4626  
Email: [jevans@tca-nola.org](mailto:jevans@tca-nola.org)  
[www.tca-nola.org](http://www.tca-nola.org)

Carolyn Fernandez  
Program Director  
Steps to a Healthier Louisiana (Affiliate -  
LPHI)  
1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1200  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 301-9828  
Email: [cfernandez@lphi.org](mailto:cfernandez@lphi.org)  
[www.stepsla.org](http://www.stepsla.org)

Almarie Ford  
Director, Children & Adolescent Specialty  
Services  
Cultural Competence Officer  
Louisiana Office of Mental Health  
2751 Wooddale Boulevard  
Suite 2779  
Baton Rouge, LA 70805  
Phone: (504) 430-8161  
Email: [alford@dhh.la.gov](mailto:alford@dhh.la.gov)  
[www.dhh.la.gov](http://www.dhh.la.gov)

Nancy Freeman  
Executive Director  
Institute of Mental Hygiene  
1055 St. Charles Avenue  
Suite 350  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: (504) 566-1852  
Email: [nfreeman@imhno.org](mailto:nfreeman@imhno.org)  
[www.imhno.org](http://www.imhno.org)

Thelma French  
Director of IGR and Parental Involvement  
Orleans Parish School Board  
401 Nashville Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
Phone: (504) 204-5678  
Email: [thelma\\_french@nops.k12.la.us](mailto:thelma_french@nops.k12.la.us)  
[www.nops.k12.la.us](http://www.nops.k12.la.us)

Leslie Garibaldi  
Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator  
New Orleans Public Schools  
401 Nashville Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
Phone: (504) 228-6945  
Email: [leslie\\_garibaldi@nops.k12.la.us](mailto:leslie_garibaldi@nops.k12.la.us)

Carolyn Gillman

Education Consultant  
Culture, Curriculum & Change  
2115 Marengo Street, Apt. B  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
Phone: (504) 891-3980  
Email: [bodhicitta98@hotmail.com](mailto:bodhicitta98@hotmail.com)

Joseph Hawes  
Senior Consultant, CommonHealth ACTION  
Dep't of Prevention and Community Health  
2175 K St., NW, Suite 700  
The George Washington University  
Washington, DC 20037  
Phone: (202) 416-0432  
Fax: (202) 416-0433  
Email: [benhawes@msn.com](mailto:benhawes@msn.com)  
[www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/pch](http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/pch)

Elliott Hill  
Community Outreach Consultant  
Metropolitan Human Services District  
650 Poydras Avenue  
Suite 2420  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: (504) 568-3165  
Email: [ehill06@bellsouth.net](mailto:ehill06@bellsouth.net)

Laura Jensen  
Raintree Children & Family Services  
1233 8th Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
Phone: (504) 899-9045  
Email: [ljensen@raintreeservices.org](mailto:ljensen@raintreeservices.org)

Mary Louise Jones  
Section Supervisor  
Louisiana Department of Education  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Phone: (225) 342-3366  
Email: [marylouise.jones@la.gov](mailto:marylouise.jones@la.gov)  
[www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net)

Monique Kerrigan  
Children's Team Crisis Counselor  
LA Spirit  
1000 Howard Avenue  
New Orleans, LA  
Phone: (504) 462-0437  
Email: [moniker@bellsouth.net](mailto:moniker@bellsouth.net)  
Maxine Kimbrell  
Coordinator, Children's Services

Metropolitan Human Services District  
1010 Common Street, Suite 550  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 858-6056  
Email: [mkimbrel@dhh.la.gov](mailto:mkimbrel@dhh.la.gov)

Joaniko Kohchi  
Phone: (504) 239-1526  
Email: [jkohchi2005@aol.com](mailto:jkohchi2005@aol.com)

John Krentel  
Chief Operating Officer  
Louisiana Youth Enhanced Services  
(LA-YES)  
Louisiana Department of Health &  
Hospitals  
210 State Street, Cottage #4  
New Orleans, LA 70118-5378  
Phone: (504) 896-2636  
Email: [jbkrente@dhh.la.gov](mailto:jbkrente@dhh.la.gov)  
[www.dhh.la.gov](http://www.dhh.la.gov)

Vincent Lafronza  
Principal  
CommonHealth ACTION  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: (202) 327-5494  
Email: [vlafronza@commonhealthaction.org](mailto:vlafronza@commonhealthaction.org)  
[www.commonhealthaction.org](http://www.commonhealthaction.org)

Phyllis Landrieu  
President  
Orleans Parish School Board  
2400 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: (504) 523-1193  
Email: [plandrieu@cox.net](mailto:plandrieu@cox.net)

Nehanda Lindsey  
Strategic Consultant  
CommonHealth ACTION  
3545 Estate Lake Drive  
Fairburn, GA 30213  
Phone: (770) 306-1198  
Email: [nlindsey@commonhealthaction.org](mailto:nlindsey@commonhealthaction.org)  
[www.commonhealthaction.org](http://www.commonhealthaction.org)

Michele Many  
Clinical Instructor  
LSU Health Sciences Center  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Phone: (504) 495-2784  
Email: [mmany@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:mmany@lsuhsc.edu)  
[www.lsuhscc.edu](http://www.lsuhscc.edu)

DJ & Ursula Markey  
Pyramid Community Parent Resource  
Center  
Phone: (504) 899-8158  
Email: [pyramidcprc@aol.com](mailto:pyramidcprc@aol.com)

Ron McClain  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Family Service of Greater New Orleans  
2515 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
Phone: (504) 822-0800  
Email: [rmcclain@fsgno.org](mailto:rmcclain@fsgno.org)  
[www.fsgno.org](http://www.fsgno.org)

Daisy McKenzie  
Crisis Counselor  
Louisiana Spirit Program  
161 Elvie Court  
Avondale, LA 70094  
Phone: (504) 436-7153  
Email: [dmcke69287@aol.com](mailto:dmcke69287@aol.com)

Mosanda Mvula  
Chair Health Disparities  
City of New Orleans Department of Health  
1300 Perdido Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 658-2529  
Email: [mmmvula@cityofno.com](mailto:mmmvula@cityofno.com)

Paula Palermo  
Social Worker  
Louisiana Spirit, Catholic Charities  
1000 Howard Avenue  
New Orleans, LA  
Phone: (504) 462-0453

Sharon Pomeroy  
LA Covering Kids/Agenda for Children  
1720 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
Phone: (504) 586-8509  
Email: [spomeroy@lacoveringkids.org](mailto:spomeroy@lacoveringkids.org)  
[www.agendaforchildren.org](http://www.agendaforchildren.org)

Ted Quant  
Twomey Center Loyola University  
6363 St. Charles Avenue, Box 12  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
Phone: (504) 861-5831  
Email: [quant@loyno.edu](mailto:quant@loyno.edu)  
[www.loyno.edu/twomey](http://www.loyno.edu/twomey)

Leah Raby  
Email: [lrraby@bellsouth.net](mailto:lrraby@bellsouth.net)

Falu Rami  
Soldier and Family Life Consultant  
Health Net Federal Services  
Phone: (714) 926-7589  
Email: [falurami@gmail.com](mailto:falurami@gmail.com)

Sandra Robinson  
Deputy Director  
New Orleans Health Department  
1300 Perdido Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 658-2512  
Email: [srobinson@cityofno.com](mailto:srobinson@cityofno.com)

Karran Royal  
1360 Soldiers Street  
New Orleans, LA 70182  
Phone: (504) 722-8174  
Email: [karranroyal@msn.com](mailto:karranroyal@msn.com);  
[karranroyal@cox.net](mailto:karranroyal@cox.net)

Denise Lawless Smith  
Interim Program Coordinator  
Early Childhood Supports & Services  
Office of Mental Health, Department of  
Health & Hospitals  
2222 Simon Bolivar Street  
2nd Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70113  
Email: [dlawless@dhh.la.gov](mailto:dlawless@dhh.la.gov)  
[www.dhh.la.gov](http://www.dhh.la.gov)

Jacqueline Smith  
Deputy Director  
Metropolitan Human Services District  
1107 So. Peters Street, Unit 211  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: (504) 568-3133  
Email: [jackies@mhsdla.org](mailto:jackies@mhsdla.org)

Tira Smith  
Children's Team Crisis Counselor  
LA Spirit  
1000 Howard Avenue  
New Orleans, LA  
Phone: (504) 462-0425  
Email: [tiraann@yahoo.com](mailto:tiraann@yahoo.com)

Ivy Starns  
Program Coordinator  
Preschool and Elementary Standards  
Section  
Division of Student Standards and  
Assessments  
Louisiana Department of Education  
1201 North Third Street  
PO Box 94064  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064  
Phone: (225) 342-3366  
Email: [ivy.starns@la.gov](mailto:ivy.starns@la.gov)  
[www.la.gov](http://www.la.gov)

Terry Toombs  
Associate Extension Agent (FCS)  
LSU AgCenter  
6640 Riverside Dr Suite 200  
Metairie, LA 70003  
Phone: (504) 838-1170  
Email: [ttoombs@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ttoombs@agcenter.lsu.edu)  
[www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

Nefertiti Tyehemba  
Volunteer  
Tamb-o-rine and Fan Summer Day Camp  
Project  
Coordinator  
People's Hurricane Relief Fund  
Email: [nt2127@barnard.edu](mailto:nt2127@barnard.edu)

Elder Willie Walker  
Noah's Ark M.B.C.  
4336 Idaho Street  
Kenner, LA 70065  
Phone: (504) 261-4871  
Email: [williewalker777@yahoo.com](mailto:williewalker777@yahoo.com)

Emile Washington  
Case Manager, Katrina Resource &  
Referral  
Children's Defense Fund  
938 Lafayette Street, Suite 407  
New Orleans, LA  
Phone: (504) 681-0082  
Email: [ewashington@childrensdefense.org](mailto:ewashington@childrensdefense.org)  
[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Shelia Webb  
Director  
Center for Empowered Decision Making  
1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1060  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: (504) 620-0024  
Email: [swebb@excelth.com](mailto:swebb@excelth.com)

Rhea Woods  
Project Director  
LA-Y.E.S.  
210 State Street, Cottage #4  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
Phone: (504) 896-2636  
Email: [rwoodslo@dhh.la.gov](mailto:rwoodslo@dhh.la.gov)  
[www.layes.org](http://www.layes.org)

Tasia Yamamura  
Volunteer  
Hurricane Relief Fund  
Phone: (504) 301-0215  
Email: [tyamamura@scrippscollege.edu](mailto:tyamamura@scrippscollege.edu)