Counselor Spotlight: Elayna O’Connor-Morris

My name is Elayna O’Connor- Morris and I am a School Counselor at Scotlandville Magnet High School. My role as the school counselor is to ensure all students have access to support. I address academics, career readiness, and student well-being for all students on our campus. I have always been dedicated to helping others. Though I have a portfolio of accolades, my biggest accomplishment is starting the “Counselor’s Closet” at Scotlandville Magnet High School, to address the needs of our students.

Though every student is not afforded the same opportunity, my mission has been to serve as a resource to all students. I am thankful to my former principal for allowing me to move forward with this initiative, as well as my colleagues and peers for their many donations to the students. The contents of this closet include school uniforms, snacks, laundry detergent and basic sanitation necessities (soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.). I also offer students small incentives to return their old uniforms so I can take them home, clean them, and keep them in my office for students and families in need.

As a counselor, education advocate, and mother, my aim is to always encourage, motivate, and inspire youth to become well rounded members of society through giving back to their communities and hard work.

Elayna O’Connor Morris, MS, MA, LPC, NCC
School Counselor
Scotlandville Magnet High School
Professional Opportunities

Community Service Diploma Endorsement
Share with school counselors and students

Students in high school have the opportunity to earn the Community Service Diploma Endorsement if they earn 80 hours of community service during their high school years. Visit the Diploma Endorsement webpage for more information.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

Financial Aid Support
Please share with high school counselors and student stakeholders.

Reminder: The 2023-2024 FAFSA for the 2022-2023 high school year opens on October 1, 2022, and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), the Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) are available to lend support.

Please email any or all of these offices to discuss your needs.

- LDOE: ldefinancialaid@la.gov
- LELA: carmichael@lpfa.com
- LOSFA: breanna.paul@la.gov

Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call
Share with Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) directors, supervisors, and all attendance stakeholders

CWAs are provided with relevant professional development, resources, and tools to support students and families within their systems. As members of the Louisiana Attendance Alliance, CWAs are afforded evidence-based, best-practices to address chronic absence and encourage family engagement during these meetings. This meeting will include an attendance toolkit training/professional development.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98929998429
- **Webinar ID:** 989 2999 8429
- **Passcode:** CWALAA
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799

Please contact shelneka.adams@la.gov with questions.
**Educator Evaluation Survey**

Please share with systems leaders, school leaders, and teachers.

As part of Louisiana’s Recruitment and Retention Plan, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is reviewing the current Louisiana educator evaluation system that was created over ten years ago in order to identify areas for improvement.

The LDOE is asking for the input of educators that are evaluated and educators that are evaluators via a survey. The [leader survey](#) and [teacher survey](#) close on September 30 and will provide educators an opportunity to share opinions and ideas on the current evaluation system. Please share these surveys with all school leaders and teachers.

Please email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with questions.

**Well-Being**

**988 Stickers**

Please share with counselors and operations.

As required by [Act 93](#) “Beginning not later than the 2020-2021 school year, the governing authority of each public and approved nonpublic secondary school that issues student identification cards shall have printed on the cards the following information:

1. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number.
2. A local suicide prevention hotline number, if available.”

988 stickers for Student Identification Cards are available for school systems via [robyn.thomas@la.gov](mailto:robyn.thomas@la.gov). Please provide a mailing address and number of stickers requested.
**Ask CoCo**

**Q & A With COunselor COnnect!**

**Q:** What advice would you give to a first year school counselor?
- The Rookie Counselor

**A:** There are a few common mistakes rookie counselors make. One in particular is “assuming everyone knows your role.” When others don't know or understand your role, they potentially lose out on learning about the awesome counseling super powers you possess and utilize your skills for matters outside of your wheelhouse. To combat this, ask your administration to speak at family nights, faculty meetings, and other family-school-community events so you can remind everyone how you can best support and serve them.

- CoCo

Do you have any questions and you’re not sure who to ask? CoCo is here to support her fellow counselors! Send all your counseling related (or unrelated) questions to CoCo and she will respond in this section. Questions will be reposted anonymously then answered. Some answers may require research, so they may not always be answered in the order in which they are received. All questions will be acknowledged; here or directly to your inbox!

Please email shelneka.adams@la.gov CoCo’s assistant, all questions. The subject line should read: ASK COCO!
A Message from LSCA!
Information from the Louisiana School Counselor Association.

2022 LCA Conference and LSCA Luncheon

Are you planning to attend the 2022 Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA) Conference September 24-27? If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late!

Also, please also register to attend the LSCA Annual Luncheon on September 25, 2022. We would love for you to join us!

Reminders
Information from past Counselor Connects that you may have missed.

ACT® College and Career Readiness Workshops
Please share with principals, counselors, testing coordinators, and teachers.

ACT® will be hosting their 2022 College and Career Readiness Workshops. These workshops are a chance for K-12 stakeholders to learn and collaborate on the latest trends in college and career readiness. Registration for in-person workshops that offer content specific to Louisiana is open.

In-person workshops are:
- September 27, 2022 at University of New Orleans in New Orleans, LA at 9:00 am
- September 29, 2022 at the Louisiana Department of Education Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA at 9:00 am
- October 4, 2022 at University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Lafayette, LA at 9:00 am

Registration is also open for National and Product-Specific webinars, such as ACT® Test Prep, PreACT®, and ACT® WorkKeys. If you are unable to attend the webinar, you can receive a link to the recording after the live event by still registering.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.
LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators
Share with Counselors, Administrators, all educators

Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed psychologists or therapists through your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

What can we treat? Addiction, Adolescent Counseling, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Depression and Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss Counseling, Insomnia, Marriage and Family Counseling, Postpartum Depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Work-related Stress Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at ldeo.ochsneranywherecare.com and enter Service Key: LDOE Coupon Code: TEACH (When asking for payment)

Please email anywherecare@ochsner.org or for 24/7 technical support, call 855-667-9711.

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

Office of Career and College Readiness Contact Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov">highschoolacademics@la.gov</a></td>
<td>General questions about the office and about graduation requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov">ldefinancialaid@la.gov</a></td>
<td>Questions related to the financial aid policy or for assistance with FAFSA completion</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:SCA@la.gov">SCA@la.gov</a></td>
<td>Questions related to Supplemental Course Academy/Course Choice</td>
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<td>Questions related to dual enrollment or Advanced Placement</td>
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