

CCDCFS Advisory Board Meeting Attendance

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10	Victor A. Ruiz	victor@esperanza,inc.org
11	Andrew Garner (call-in) ^{440.} 908-9228	andrew.garner@UH.hospital.com
12	Sonia Emerson (call-in) ^{440.} 681-0908	
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CCDCFS Advisory Board
Meeting Agenda

April 3, 2019

4:00 – 6:00 PM

3955 Euclid Ave. Rm. #348E

Call-In Information: (888)363-4735 Access Code: 2537352

- I. Welcome
- II. Purpose and Ground Rules
- III. By-laws
- IV. Child Welfare Topics of Interest – survey results
- V. Areas of Common Interest
- VI. Data
- VII. Corrective Action Plan and Recommendations
- VIII. Next Steps

Doodle Poll will be sent out for the remaining 2019 meetings



Advisory Board Meeting

3 April 2019

In Attendance: Cynthia Weiskittel, Tamara Chapman-Wagner, Jacqueline McCray, Christopher Cabot, Yvonne Conwell, Debra Rex, Beverly Charles, Dr. David Crampton, Angela Newman-White, Christin Farmer, Deonna Kirkpatrick, Victor A. Ruiz, Andrew Garner (via phone conference), Sonia Emerson (via phone conference).

I. Welcome - Introductions

- a. Cynthia Weiskittel (CW) – Director of DCFS with 30 years of experience at the agency from case worker to Director
- b. Tamara Chapman-Wagner (TCW) – DCFS Deputy Director of Short Term Services (STS), S.T.A.R.T., and Hotline. 30 years of experience with the DCFS.
- c. Jacqueline McCray (JM) – DCFS Deputy Director of Resources & Placement and Case Review. This includes foster care and adoptions.
- d. Christopher Cabot (CC) – DCFS Administrator of Extended Services (EXT SVS) with 25 years of experience.
- e. Christin Farmer (CF) – President & CEO of Birthing Beautiful Communities
- f. Dr. David Crampton (DC) – Professor of Social Work at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University
- g. Angela Newman-White (ANW) – Cuyahoga County Board of Health: Maternal and Child Health Program
- h. Deonna Kirkpatrick (DK) – Communications Deputy for HHS which includes DCFS
- i. Deborah Rex (DR) – Former CEO of Beech Brook
- j. Beverly Charles (BC) – Former Senior Staffer for the 11th District of the Ohio House
- k. Victor A. Ruiz (VR) – Esperanza
- l. Yvonne Conwell (YC) – Cuyahoga County Council Representative for District 7. Chairs Health, Human Services & Aging Committee
- m. Sonia Emerson (SE) – Connect organization

II. Agency Overview and General Discussion

- a. Overview – Structure Chart (handout #1)
 - i. Three Responsibilities of the Agency
 1. Safety, Permanency & Well-Being
 - ii. Approx. 2600 children in care
 1. Approx. 600 children have parental rights terminated. The agency is now the custodian.



2. Approx. 170 children are in residential care facilities
- iii. While there is typically an increase in calls to the hotline after a child fatality, these calls have not leveled out in the year since the Aniya Day-Garrett case.
 1. Increase in calls from mandated reporters
- iv. Total of 500 social workers in the agency
 1. 50 vacancies
 - a. Anticipatory hiring is in place, but does not keep up with turnover
 - b. New workers received 12 weeks of training and 12 weeks in the transition department
 - c. Resource limitation appears to drive up risk – (DR)
 2. Increase in secondary trauma, FMLA, and turnover – (TCW)
 - a. STS Caseload Average – 15.2
 - b. Special Investigations Caseload Average - 20
 - c. EXT SVS Caseload Average – 13.5
- b. Workflow Diagram – How a Case Moves Through the Agency (handout #2)
 - i. Hotline is staffed by Child Protection Workers 24/7
 1. Screened Out Calls
 - a. If a call is screened out the information is still collected and kept in the system so that it may be referenced if another referral is made
 2. Screened In Calls
 - a. If a call is screened in, a safety assessment must be completed within 4 days
 - b. If the call is an emergency, staff have one hour to make face-to-face contact with the child
 - c. If the call is a non-emergency, staff have 24 hours to make face-to-face contact with the child
 - ii. Placement
 1. Start with least restrictive placements
 - a. Relatives/Families → Foster → Residential
 2. Services are offered to render a behavioral change in the family. If there is no change, then DCFS cannot remove themselves from the family.
 - iii. Risk Levels
 1. Is the type intervention different for risk levels? – (VR)
 - a. It depends on the protective capacities of the child & adult. The younger the child the less likely it is that they are able to self-protect – (TCW)



- i. Ex. Educational Neglect while a risk, is not unsafe – *(CW)*
 2. How much is standardized vs. professional judgement when deciding risk level? – *(VR)*
 - a. There are tools to guide workers, but they must be able to use professional judgement – *(CW)*
 - i. Request to have access to safety assessment tools
 3. Where does Team Decision Making come into Victor's question? – *(DR)*
 - a. Once removal becomes a question – *(TCW)*
 - b. Staffings are for bringing family and natural supports to the table to build a plan to keep the child safe – *(CW)*
 - c. JR6 – police assume custody and bring child to DCFS
 4. Resource limitation appears to drive up risk – *(DR)*

III. Child Welfare Topics of Interest

a. Survey Results

- i. In child welfare knowledge members ranked themselves from: basic (2), fair knowledge level (3), proficient (2), and highly knowledgeable (1)
- ii. Child Welfare topics of interest (chose all that are of interest)
 1. 7/8 said services for families and children
 2. 50% Foster & Kinship Care
 3. 50% Other:
 - a. Ways to involve the community in effective prevention strategies to keep families safe and together
 - b. Engaging families and community in protecting children
 - c. Promoting safe, stable, and nurturing relationships to buffer adversity and build resilience
 - d. Youth transitioning out of care
 4. 38% (3) Investigation and Assessment
 5. 38% (3) Involving Juvenile Court/law
 6. 13% (1) Hotline/Screening
 7. 13% (1) Adoption & Post-Adoption Services
- iii. Is there a specific topic you'd like the Board to focus on (narrative) – 38% responded
 1. I'd like to know from your Team what the biggest challenges are both external to and on the inside of the department. And where could our "outside" voices be most helpful?



2. The geographic shifts in DCFS cases suggest some need to think about geographic strategies
 3. Building child, family, and community resilience
- b. Youth Aging out of System
 - i. About 130 youth per year
 1. More likely to not finish education
 2. More likely to be homeless
 3. More likely to end up in jail
 - c. Geo Assignments
 - i. Started in the 90's
 - ii. Built relationships with specific community collabs
 - d. What are the biggest challenges internally and externally, and how can the advisory board be of help?
 - i. Biggest help would be addressing the communication barrier with the complexity of issues and family dynamics – (CW)
 - e. A question of workflow – is there prep in secondary education – (VR)
 - i. 10-12 students are currently doing filed work with DCFS – (CW)
 - f. How do we communicate more with the community? – (BC)
 - i. Contractual relationships have existed with collabs for 20 years
 - ii. Listening Tours were held, but not highly attended – (CW)
 - g. Group interest in focus groups with staff to better understand the frontline
 - i. Possible to have third-party facilitators
 - h. Request for a list of services provided through DCFS
 - i. Most of our services are contracted out – (CW)
- IV. Communications Department – (DK)**
- a. Post-Listening Tours (handout #3)
 - i. Monthly meetings/forums planned in rotation in every neighborhood
 1. Social media/radio ads being run to get people to attend
 - a. Postcard mailings to everyone with an open case
 2. Connect community with resources to help children not involved with the agency
 - a. Ex. Getting a child into a good preschool
 3. Social workers available to talk to one-on-one at forums
 - ii. Child Abuse Prevention Month – April
 1. Please refer to handouts #4 and #5
 2. Rock painting event with social media tie-in
 - a. In an effort to further involve the community
 - b. Painted rocks will be hidden in neighborhoods with hashtags to link to DCFS
 - iii. Can these events be partnered with events that are already taking place in the community? – (CF)



1. The Speakers Bureau goes out into the community to provide training when requested. – (DK)
 - a. Trainings range from 30-minute overview to 6-hour certification classes
- iv. Public Website
 1. Weekly stats posted every Monday
 2. Quarterly Reports
 3. Policies & Procedures
 4. Events
 5. Contact Information
 6. New website will be out late summer/early fall
 7. Advisory board and schedule of meetings will get its own page
- V. Data
 - a. Can we get demographics as they relate to the risk factors for children? – (ANW)
 - i. Demographics can be sent out – (CW)
 - ii. DV has been an issue on a lot of our cases this year – (CW)
 1. There are differences on how the disciplines can service the families
- VI. Procedures/Bylaws/Next Steps
 - a. If people want to address the counsel, what should the procedure be? Sign-up process? –(DK)
 - i. Consensus that 72-hour notice is not needed – (CW)
 1. Recommend that a time limit be set on individuals speaking
 2. Sign up & show up on time
 - b. Can independent agencies promote public hearings to their network? – (CF)
 - i. Yes. That is the intention. – (VC)
 - ii. Requirement that meetings are advertised on the advisory board website – (CW)
 - iii. Typically, visitors must give 72-hour notice
 1. Interested in screening stories to get the board together prior to the meeting to have a more concise answer?
 - c. Bylaws of adult services were sent out as reference. If people are attending meetings there need to be ground rules. – (CW)
 - i. Does each agency create rules around public meetings? – (VR)
 1. Yearly schedule would provide sufficient notice. – (YC)
 2. As long as the meeting is public, and people are allowed to speak, it falls under Sunshine Laws.
 - a. Specification on Sunshine Laws and how many people constitute a meeting. – (DC)



- i. Send discussions to Ross for county counsel. – (YC)
 - i. Key person within the agency will also be identified. – (CW)
- VII. Corrective Action Plan and Recommendations
 - a. More details about the Day case will be presented at the next meeting – (CW)
 - i. Agency received 4 referrals; mom became increasingly difficult and evasive
 - 1. Support system corroborated mom's story
 - b. Were there triggers or escalations in referrals? – (DR)
 - i. No escalations; the last intake was for a home-study that was held by the court for 2 months. – (CW)
 - 1. This changes the worker's approach as it is not an allegation of abuse/neglect
 - c. Advisory Board members have been asked multiple times in different settings about the case, so it will be important to have talking points
 - i. Can panel report be shared with the group? – (DC)
 - 1. CW – will get permission
 - ii. Interest is in accountability – (VR)
 - 1. Talking points should be scrutinized

Effective 2/14/19

DRAFT

Michael Brown
HR

Michelle Myers
County Prosecutor

VACANT
Assistant Law Director

Walter Parojewicz
HHS Director

Cynthia Weiskittel
DCFS Director

Angela Savage
Sr. Administrative Secretary

Karen Anderson
Special Projects Coordinator/PFS

Jennifer Croessmann
Special Projects Coordinator

Roseana Daniels
Sr. Administrative Secretary

Short-Term Services
Tamara Chapman-Wagner
Special Projects Coordinator

Short Term Services 1
Latasha Brown
Kristina Himes
Ryan Lacey
Ellen Maynard
Lynetta Allen
John Lympany
Transition Unit - Sonya Walker
Transition Unit - Carol Mullins
Transition Unit - Marquiese Betts

Short Term Services 2
Andrea Olson
Kelly Goo-Dedic
Silke Pagendam
VACANT (Laura Cole)
Megan Suryak
Jason Ebarly
Nicole Madison

Short Term Services 3
William Moench
Chris (Larry) Snider
Elizabeth Grizer
Nabratia Chapman
Yolanda Jones
Keshia Sing
Tammy Lebron

Short Term Services 4
Lyn Fox
VACANT (Jennifer Fow)
Ashley Brown
Troya Mirich
Holly Powers
Karin Morris
Kathie Clifton
Clerical Supv- Ron Wingfield

Short Term Services 5
Lea Peterka
Kenyanna Smith
Allison Aniel
Steven Collins
Jocelyn Hickey
Theresa Howard
Stacy Gura

Short Term Services 6
S.T.A.R.T.
(J.E. Hunter)
Selina Dublin
Donna Salaram
Precious Reed
Wendy Hom
Deborah Carr
Dawna Plommy
Corey Carlo

**Kids Hotline (24/7)
Childcare
(J.E. Hunter)**
Elizabeth Nekoleff
Nicole Williams
James Smith
Pat DeBesse-Donald
Jennifer Fow
Brad Smith
Amada Mate-Rosenberger
Pamela Gaylord
Daman Butler
Angel Graham
Tiffany Orsakowski
Childcare - Erika Gaier

Extended Services
Christopher Cabot
Maureen Drayke
Special Projects Coordinator

Extended Services 2
Lara Parks
Jennifer Kovi
VACANT (Marinique Future)
Kayleen Lessmann
Carmela Compkins
Angela Thompson
Suptina Moore
Jennifer Rogers

Extended Services 3
Joseph Jackson
Shantle Frazer
Matthew Miller
Dierdre Konopka
Joan Thompson
Charlene Stewart
Amanda Stover
Angelle Franklin- Branch

Extended Services 4
Chris Malcolm
Sylvia Jackson
Ricardo Feliciano
Illinois Wilson III
Kimberly Kuzema
Megan Tealak
Ericka Cabil

Extended Services 5
Mary Mitchell
Sincerese Howell
Jason Vicens
Deanna Shuster
Richard Robinson, Jr
Yolanda Slitt

Extended Services 6
Erwin Thomas
Christopher McKinley
Yolanda Lewis
Kara Archer
Denise Kidd
Dorelea Lehmann

Resource Services
Jacqueline McCray
Jocelyn Jones
Special Projects Coordinator

**Permanency Support/
Family Finding**
Beverly Torres
Andreas Ginter
Sandra Lazar
Lisa Wade-Rush
Steve Barczak
Danielle Green-Walch

**Community Partnership/
Recruitment & Kinship**
Lea Stevens-Cutner
Recruitment
Bryan Stanton
Kinship
- VACANT (Lois Roberts)
Community Partnership

**Contracted Placements
Resources (J.E. Hunter)**
David Gray
CPR Mgmt. - Guillermo Torres
Placement - Andras Jones
Purchasing/Contracts
- Andrew Hampton

**Support Services
(J.E. Hunter)**
Karen Stormann
Support Svcs- Raymond
James
Tapestry-Alyssa Williams
MST- Nicole Scalish
Clinical Coordinator -
Lanssa Malcolm

**Transportation Unit -
Jose Delgado**
Supv. Jannaeia Mason

HMG- Brand Boswell
ESSA - Marianne Suenholzzer
Early Childhood Training
Coordinator - Donna Scott

**Health Care Unit -
LaToya Hall**
Ivelisse Nagron
Lola Alexander
Maia Antoine
Alyce Nichols

**Case Review
(J.E. Hunter)**
LaToya Howard
Keri Sawall
Case Rev. 2- Tammy Jackson
Multi-System Kids
- Ebony Freeman
Court Liaison- Richard Grace
Court Liaison - Craig Riedel

**Kinship Caregiver
Assessment Resource
(J.E. Hunter)**
Kathleen Sullivan
Lisa Pelligree

**Foster Homes Res. Mgmt.
(J.E. Hunter)**
Jacqueline Fletcher
Shelly Brown
Crystal Evans
Yvette Wheeler
OTI - Karin Austin
Judy Hunter
D. Wimbley-Rahim

**Information Services-
Software
(J.E. Hunter)**
Matt Bender
App Development Admin.-
Matt Bender
App Development Mgr. -
Greg Sherman
Mgr. Database Admin -
Curtis Couch

**Information Services-
Hardware
(J.E. Hunter)**
Jason Snowbrick
Information System
Administrator - VACANT
Certified Network Engineer -
VACANT?
Information System Admin. -
Help Desk - Scott Cooper

**Records Management
(HHS)**
Mike Jost
DeAngelo Royster (DCFS)
JEH- Ivy Gardner
Halle Bid. - Alexander Peler

**SACWIS Reporting -
Gayle Vanac**

**Business Intelligence/ SACWIS
Christian Hoefler**

**SACWIS Support -
Johanna Lanca**

**Policy & Procedure -
Donna Warner-Rogers**

**Performance Management &
Process Analysis -
Rick Schmittgen**

**Data Reporting & Analysis -
Gary O'Rourke**

**Practice Evaluation/ COI -
Margaret Shea**

**DCFS Performance Evaluation &
Innovation
(J.E. Hunter)**
Leon Harris

HHS Communications
Deonna Kirkpatrick
Communications Manager -
Stephen Flannery

Outreach
Outreach Coordinator - Kralin
Gardner

Special Projects
Community Relations
Steve Rusnak

Welcome Center
Junakee Stallings

HHS Training Department
Jacquelin Ward

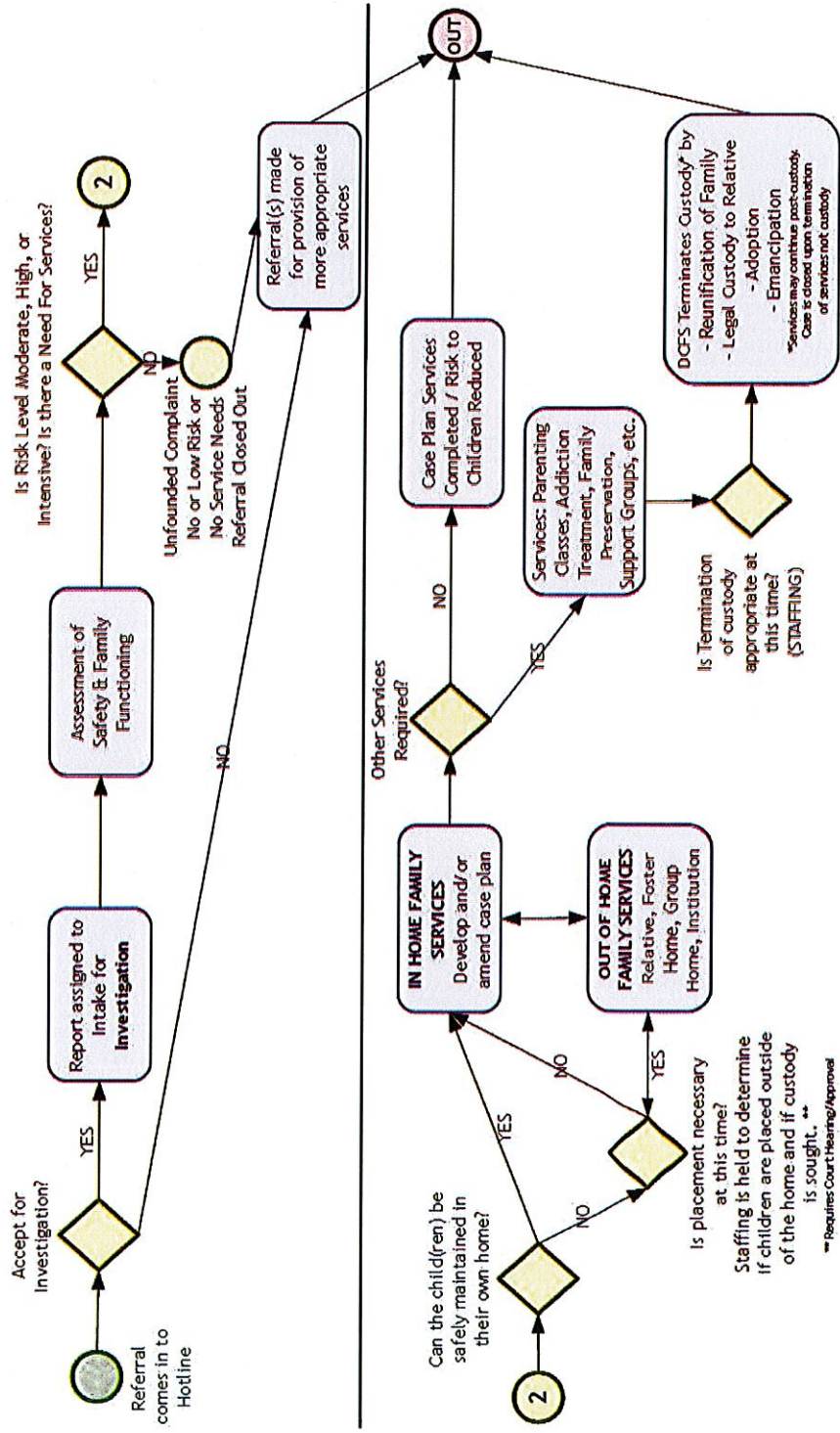
**DCFS Dept. of Professional
Development and Learning**
Brenda Payne-Riley
Gina Callender
Eddie Lebron
Lois Roberts
Monica Ascar

**HHS Business and Fiscal
Services**
Kathy Starks

Business Services
Eric Martin
Business Admin 4 - Daniel Basia

**Fiscal
(J.E. Hunter)**
Audrey Beasley
Budgeting- M. Glenn-Nunn
Payment Processing
- Renee Robinson Campbell
IV-E- Michael Leitch

Workflow Diagram



DCFS In Your Neighborhood



2019 Dates and Locations

Tuesday, February 12th
5:00pm-7:00pm

East End Neighborhood House
2749 Woodhill Rd., Cleveland OH 44104

Thursday, March 14th
5:00pm-7:00pm

Westside Community House
9300 Lorain Ave., Cleveland OH 44102

Thursday, April 18th
5:00pm-7:00pm

St. Martin De Porres
1264 East 123rd St., Cleveland, OH 44108

Wednesday, May 22nd
4:00pm-6:00pm

Garfield Heights - Cuyahoga County Library
5409 Turney Rd., Garfield OH 44125

Thursday, June 13th
4:00pm-6:00pm

Moore Counseling & Mediation
22639 Euclid Ave., Euclid OH 44117

Thursday, July 25th
4:00pm-6:00pm

Murtis Taylor Service Center, Stokes Room
13411 Union Ave., Cleveland OH 44120

Thursday, August 22nd
4:00pm-6:00pm

Friendly Inn
2386 Unwin Rd., Cleveland OH 44104

Friday, September 20th
4:00pm-6:00pm

Cleveland Heights - University Heights Library
2345 Lee Rd., Cleveland Heights OH 44118

Thursday, October 10th
5:30pm-7:30pm

Fatima Family Center
6600 Lexington Ave., Cleveland OH 44103

Wednesday, November 13th
5:00pm-7:00pm

Parma CBS (Hanna School)
11212 Snow Rd., Parma OH 44130

- **Get Help**
- **Get Informed**
- **Get Connected**

Working together to keep children safe.

Division of Children and Family Services



Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive



National Child Abuse Prevention Month Cuyahoga County Calls on all Residents to Help Prevent Child Abuse

Throughout April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Cuyahoga County's Division of Children and Family Services will engage our community to help prevent abuse, recognize signs of abuse, and learn what to do when abuse is suspected. Activities include a community gathering in Public Square, a training for mandated reporters, an event at the Strongsville Mall, and more.

The County is also joining the painted rock craze, painting and distributing blue rocks around the area for residents to find. The 570 rocks, symbolizing the number of children in permanent County custody, will each display the hashtag #CuyahogaHero, encouraging finders to go online and learn more about preventing child abuse.

Anyone who knows of or suspects child abuse or neglect, or would like to refer a family for services, should call 216-696-KIDS for help. Visit <http://cfs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Report-Abuse-Neglect.aspx> to learn more about the signs of child abuse and neglect.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Events and Activities:

Be a Hero 4 Kids Foster Recruitment Event

Saturday, April 5, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

SouthPark Mall, 500 Southpark Center, Strongsville

Join BeAHero4Kids, SouthPark Mall, and DCFS for the opening weekend of *Shazam*, a film about a child in foster care who gains super powers. Learn how to become a foster or adoptive parent and enjoy a live performance by costumed superheroes. Attendees are encouraged to dress in superhero costumes.

This event is free and open to the public but does not include admission to the film.

Wear Blue Day - Public Square Community Gathering

Wednesday, April 10, 12:30 pm

Public Square, Cleveland

All residents are encouraged to wear blue and join DCFS and community partners on Public Square to support child abuse awareness and prevention in the community. The program will include a short presentation and information about becoming a Cuyahoga Hero for children in need.

Free and open to the public.

Terminal Tower Goes Blue

Wednesday, April 10

Check the Cleveland skyline after dark to see our most iconic building participate in Wear Blue Day.

DCFS In Your Neighborhood

Thursday, April 18, 5:00 pm

St. Martin De Porres, 1264 East 123rd St., Cleveland



NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH
2019



Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive

| Division of Children and Family Services

WEAR BLUE EVENT

PUBLIC SQUARE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH

12:30 P.M.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wear-blue-day-tickets-58145348302>

Show your support for preventing
child abuse and neglect

