



MINUTES

DCFS Advisory Board Meeting

4/28/20 3:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Gabriella via Zoom due to the COVID-19 virus

In Attendance

Gabriella Celeste, Dr. David Crampton, Dr. Andrew Garner, Debra Rex, Angela Newman-White, Victor Ruiz, Lakecia Wild, Natasha Davis, Tamara Chapman-Wagner, Jennifer Croessmann (recorder)

Welcome

Presented by Gabriella Celeste

Welcome to everyone in attendance.

Call to Order

Presented by Gabriella Celeste

Meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. on 4/28/20.

Approval February 20, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Presented by Gabriella Celeste

Draft minutes approved with correction re: attendance at the Foster Care Forum

Public Comment

Presented by Gabriella Celeste

No public comments presented at today's meeting

Update: Changes in Child Welfare Practice and New Challenges due to COVID-19

Presented by DCFS Deputy Director Tamara Chapman-Wagner

- The (216)696-KIDS hotline staff continue 24/7 operations at the Jane Edna Hunter Building.
 - DCFS is working on a work from home option for hotline staff; there will still be a number of hotline staff in the building to accept children coming in for placement and residents providing in-person reports.
 - Calls are down 30% in March and continue at that level in April
 - Increase in calls involving domestic violence
 - Added:
 - a private email box: protecting-cuyahoga-kids@jfs.ohio.gov
 - facebook access <https://www.facebook.com/CuyahogaCountyDivisionofChildrenandFamilyServices/> (Click on 'Contact us' to file a report)

- and website component <http://cfs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/Report-Child-Abuse-Neglect.aspx> to submit child abuse and neglect concerns. Residents are actively using these new alternatives.
 - DCFS recorded four public media messages (PD, Cleveland.com, & 2 news networks) as a plea to the public to check in with children and adults regularly and report any child abuse & neglect concerns to the hotline. They used these opportunities to publish the email, facebook, and website reporting platforms. DCFS also reached out to virtual schools and telemedicine providers.
 - Board members suggested to continue efforts to engage with the media
 - Board members suggested DCFS reach out to the aspca, and delivery services like Instacart and amazon.
 - **ACTION:** David agreed to write an op/ed letter on behalf of the Advisory Board. Tammy will send David hotline data.
 - **ACTION:** Tammy agrees to ask the Hospital Social Workers group about any hospital child admissions data they may have to determine if there has been an increase.
- Child Protection workers are out in the field daily visiting children and families, completing investigations, participating in team decision making meetings with families, attending court hearings (virtual and in-person), and facilitating family visits when safe to do so.
 - Most contacts are face to face. Some case by case virtual contact.
 - Workers have PPE (masks and gloves). We have been unable to secure adequate amounts of hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes.
 - If families do not have the access to participate in meetings using technology, DCFS is bringing them into the building with the necessary precautions.
 - Supervisors are in the office 2 days a week and talk with frontline workers daily. Managers are in the office 3 days a week.
- Placements
 - Agency is having a hard time securing placement for children due to the risks associated with the pandemic, especially if the young person requires residential treatment.
 - Metrohealth is working with DCFS to keep kids safe while waiting to be seen for triage upon entering foster care or changing placement.
- Permanency
 - Some permanency hearings have been delayed in Juvenile Court due to COVID-19. Juvenile Court is preparing to open up a second courtroom.
 - David asked if the Board can advocate with the courts to expedite these hearings.
 - **ACTION:** Gabriella agreed to write an advocacy letter to the Administrative Judge O'Malley on behalf of the Advisory Board.
 - Discussed Governor DeWine's announcement that the state will continue to cover the costs for youth in foster care who are turning 18 during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as youth in the Bridges program.

Follow-Up Items

Presented by Gabriella Celeste

- Advisory Board Data Dashboard
 - 3 Topics of Interest
 - Workforce Data
 - Fatherhood Engagement
 - Geographic Assignment

- David to meet with Jennifer to discuss data points of interest
- **ACTION:** Deb and David agreed to bring this data to the Intervention Sub-Committee. They will share with the larger group and all will determine what data they would like to see ongoing
- Child Protection Teams
 - Prevention sub-committee obtained further information from Dr. Friedman and John Ladd
 - Dr. Friedman talked about further funding that may position CANOPY as the lead for Child Protection Teams.
 - Discussed advocacy to the Executive Office to convene with hospital leadership and explore options
 - Tammy reported that CANOPY is setting up a medical suite (est. next 90 days if possible) to expand their scope beyond sex abuse cases. CCF will be the operator to victims of sexual abuse and physical abuse, including human trafficking. Child victims of all ages to be seen. CANOPY recently received 501c3 status.
 - Tammy emphasizes that expedient collaboration is what is needed when a child victim appears at the hospital in order to make informed assessments and decisions. The biggest barriers are space and funding (along with staff). Portland is a potential model of how multiple hospital systems made this work.
 - **ACTION:** Schubert Center for Child Studies offered to work with the Board to provide TA by helping to gather information and draft report – Board agreed and Gabriella to follow up with Prevention Sub-Committee. Christy Westpalm is doing the research on CANOPY at CWRU.
- No update re: new board member and chairperson
 - Jennifer agrees to reach out to the Executive Office for an update

Sub-Committee Updates

Presented by Sub-Committee Chairs

- Prevention Sub-Committee: No further updates
- Intervention Sub-Committee: David reported on efforts to access data on Bridges program, his formal request to the state was denied and he and the sub-committee will to resume efforts “post-COVID-19”
- Governance Sub-Committee
 - Vice-Chair needed – Gabriella raised the possibility of Lakecia serving in this role at the last meeting as she cannot as Interim Chair. **MOTION & APPROVAL:** Andrew voiced a motion for Lakecia to serve as Board Vice Chair and all members voted in favor.

Board Meeting Dates

Presented by Gabriella Celeste

- June 15th is the only remaining board meeting scheduled
- **ACTION:** Jennifer agreed to set up meeting dates in August, October and December via member survey.

Public Awareness Campaign

Presented by Angela Newman-White

All members agreed to postpone this item to the June meeting agenda.

Adjourned

Presented by Gabriella Celeste

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.