

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Friday, October 15, 2021</b> 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Zoom Meeting
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<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Lakeshia Wild, Gabriella Celeste, David Crampton, Andrew Garner, Natasha Davis, Jennifer Croessmann, Marilee Santiago, Jacquelyn Fletcher, Cynthia Weiskittel, Beverly Charles, Natasha Davis, Verna Darby, Debra Rex  Guests: Kate Lodge, Mildred Sewer (Documenters) Board Members not present: Angela Newman-White
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<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Available online – Cindy Weiskittel will post minutes upon approval
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<b>RECORDER</b>	Tatiana Johnson
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**AGENDA ITEMS**

<b>Introduce and Welcome</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting minutes from July 30, 2021 Approved upon motion by Gabriella Celeste and seconded by Andrew Garner -Approved contingent to correction: Gabriella Celeste’s name needs to be spelled correctly</li> </ul>

<b>Public Comment</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comment</li> </ul>

<b>Community Call to Action (Kate Lodge)</b>	
<b>Presentation &amp; Discussion</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Place 4 Me</li> <li>b. Preventing youth homelessness             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Systems work</li> <li>b. Ending homelessness</li> <li>c. Direct service work – 2 youth navigators</li> <li>d. Opportunity Passport</li> <li>e. Opportunities for kids in the bldg. can go to Jennifer who will route them to hotline senior manager Elizabeth Nekoloff; Kate will send Jennifer resources to get out to staff</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>f. Public Health Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Advocacy</li> <li>ii. Multi-systemic youth need multi-system solutions</li> <li>iii. Prevention</li> <li>iv. St. Vincent’s Assessment Center</li> <li>v. Convening</li> <li>vi. Gabriella Celeste made a motion for the board to make a call to the community as a whole for a broader community response – communication – David Crampton seconded the motion</li> </ul>
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<b>Director’s Updates</b>	
<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children in Building</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Trying to keep children on a schedule when they are in JEH building (school, visiting family, therapy, other services)</li> <li>-2 children came in the building last night (10/14/2021)</li> <li>-Children can come in at any time, DCFS is open 24/7</li> <li>-Most placement providers do not have a license to take children over 18 and those with the highest-level needs stay in DCFS custody until age 21</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>COVID-19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The County does not mandate staff to be vaccinated</li> <li>- Working with law department to become more aggressive about kids in custody getting vaccinated</li> <li>- Children 12 and above can receive the booster</li> <li>- 863 children are in permanent custody &amp; 263 of them are vaccinated</li> <li>- We cannot mandate foster parents to get vaccinated, and have not removed kids from their homes if they are not vaccinated</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Peer Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Moore Counseling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DCFS offers support for staff with Moore Counseling, the DCFS Peer Support Team, and in times of crisis has used FrontLine Services</li> <li>- Moore Counseling is back in the Jane Edna Hunter Building on Mondays from 10 - 2</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Think. Relate. Coach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Curriculum on supportive supervision, critical thinking and emotional intelligence</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Subcommittee Updates: Prevention, Intervention, Government)</b>	
<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prevention Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Andrew Garner: Need services for families before parents reach a</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>breaking point. How can these services be implemented and advocated for families?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Multisystem and community resources to support families in the community</li> <li>c. Mental Health crisis with police is a community issue and not just DCFS</li> <li>d. Cindy: DCFS is the only system not allowed to say no to serving children and families, no matter what their needs are at any given time. System is not equipped to handle youth with serious assaultive behavior.</li> <li>e. Multi-System kids need multi system solutions</li> <li>f. Next Meeting Nov 16 at 10:00AM</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Intervention Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Data Dashboard</li> <li>b. Worker Retention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-High number vacancies</li> <li>-Retention: 14 focus groups for Supervisors; 86% supervisors participated; charted suggestions in 6 major categories and implementing supervisor ambassadors to raise their voice and impact changes that will increase retention</li> <li>-Hiring 8 classes this year compared to typical 5 classes/yr.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. GEO Assignments for social workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-With number or vacancies can't quite keep all cases in specified GEO area</li> <li>-Advisory Board would like the % of cases that go outside of their GEO area</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. LGBTQ Youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-LGBTQ grant ended 9/30/21</li> <li>-DCFS continues safe identification, triage and resource referrals; Kinnect still serving children &amp; families until 12/31/21. County is in process of securing a provider for the Youth Acceptance Project</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. Multi-Systems Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Child Protection Teams RFP posted</li> <li>- Law Enforcement agencies, relationships with DCFS</li> </ul> </li> <li>f. Disproportionality Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Full review on decision reports. Data should be annual, won't change much from quarter to quarter – next review in Feb 2022</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Governance Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Child Protection Team Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeking partners</li> <li>- Oct 29- Hospital System Response update</li> <li>- Board to draft an update report to submit to County Council before next meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Action Items	
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advisory board Meeting Schedule</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need at least 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of dates for proposed schedule</li> <li>-Everyone should submit what dates/day of the week work for everyone</li> <li>- Jennifer Croessmann will send out Doodle poll to see what dates work for everyone</li> <li>-Andrew Garner is only available on Monday &amp; Friday's</li> <li>-Marilee Santiago is available on Mondays after 10</li> <li>-Meetings should be scheduled every other month</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Next Meeting:

December 13, 2021

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location – Zoom

Recorder – Deborah Barber