

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:00 pm -6:00 pm – Cuyahoga County Administration Building/Teams
ATTENDEES	Gabriella Celeste, Beverly Charles, David Crampton, Bianca Crawford, Verna Darby, Kara Davis (DCFS), Andrew Garner, Angela Newman-White, Daniel Smith Guests –Rachael Amick (DCFS), Michael Bokmiller (Canopy), Cleveland Documenters
MINUTES	Available Online –Deborah Barber will post minutes upon approval
RECORDER	Deborah Barber

AGENDA ITEMS

	Introduce and Welcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela Newman-White opened meeting• Introductions• Motion to accept meeting minutes from August 6, 2025• David Crampton– 1st• Bianca Crawford – 2nd• Minutes Approved
	Public Comment
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No public comment
	Director’s Report – Kara Davis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The DCY Placement Teams are providing regional support for the agency. DCFS has prevailed upon them for support with difficult cases. It has been a positive experience, and the collaboration has worked well so far. The Child Protections Teams, Canopy, and some of the participating partners presented at the HHS Committee meeting September 17. DCFS meets with Michael Bokmiller on a bi-weekly basis to discuss the CPT project. DCFS is currently on a tight budget. There is a hiring freeze currently in effect. DCFS is evaluating processes to ensure operations move forward as efficiently as possible. The hiring class in July had 19 staff members. The next hiring class will be about six employees.

Subcommittees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention – David Crampton – The Data Dashboard was presented by DCFS employee, Rachael Amick The data presented was for the second quarter, January 20, 2025, to June 30, 2025. DCFS fielded 8509 calls. 2097 were screened in, 3243 were screened out, and 3169 were informational. There are 725 ongoing cases, 579 adoption cases and 209 ICPC and ICAMA cases. There is a total of 3098 open cases. 94% of children are safe from maltreatment 6 months from the date of DCFS involvement. There was discussion regarding children in the childcare room. Many of those children need PRTF (Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities). There are not many of those facilities which makes placement difficult. Dr. Garner suggested the board could advocate for more resources for those children. Dr. Garner congratulated David Crampton for his hard work advocating to involve fathers in the DCFS process. Governance – Angela Newman-White –Eight of the ten board members appointments will be expiring in 2027. The Governance Committee is seeking names of possible new members to continue the work that has been started. Angela Newman-White has contacted Sbrina Roberson for guidance regarding how to proceed. Bianca Crawford was nominated to chair the Intervention Committee. Gabrielle Celeste moved to separate the Intervention committee into two parts with Bianca Crawford leading the committee and David Crampton handling the data dashboard. Verna Darby seconded. All approved. Prevention – Gabriella Celeste – The committee has not met. The next Prevention Committee meeting is October 3rd. All committee members are welcome. Delany Jones from Safe Babies will be speaking to the group for the first 20 minutes. Dr. Garner recommended a piece regarding prevention published on the National Academy’s website. Gabriella Celeste inquired if the members were aware of House Bill 346 and how it would impact DCFS. 	

Information Sharing/Adjournment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates – Angela Newman-White – First Year Cleveland has received substantial funding to help families in the county with services. Bianca Crawford – Motivated and Empowered just launched the Blue Nourish Program. They are having a townhall October 24th at 9:00am and then a grand opening at 1:00pm. Michael Bokmiller (Canopy) – October 29th Canopy is having a conference at the Huntington Convention Center that will include DCFS, law enforcement, health care workers, victim advocates among others. Adjournment

[Next Meeting:](#) December 3, 2025, 4:00pm – 6:00 PM
 Location – County Headquarters, 2079 E 9th St., Room A, Cleveland, OH 44115