

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING	Wednesday, June 7, 2023 6:00 pm -8:00 pm – Zoom Meeting
ATTENDEES	Jennifer Croessmann (DCFS), Gabriella Celeste, Beverly Charles, David Crampton, Verna Darby, Natasha Davis, Jacqueline Fletcher (DCFS), Andrew Garner, Angela Newman-White, Debra Rex, Marilee Santiago, Lakecia Wild Guests – Chris Ronayne, David Merriman, Christina Easter, Kristy Mlocki, Kaitlyn Durbin (Reporter Plain Dealer), Jonathon Jamison (Documenters)
MINUTES	Available Online –Jennifer Croessmann will post minutes upon approval
RECORDER	Deborah Barber

AGENDA ITEMS

	Introduce and Welcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lakecia Wild opened meeting• Introductions• Meeting minutes from April 5, 2023• Moved to accept – Lakecia Wild• Second – Gabriella Celeste Unanimous Vote Minutes Approved
	Public Comment
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Comments
	Guest – Chris Ronayne – Cuyahoga County Executive
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions were provided by the Advisory Board to the County Executive prior to the meeting.• Wishes to change focus from child welfare to child wellness with a focus on safety and enrichment• Discussion of the placement crisis – shortages of staff and options, the focus should be on family reunification and stabilization• Discussion of the T-Suites – Focus on campus that provides wrap around services• Wishes to work with the Advisory Board to form a Strategic Plan• There is a need to work with Juvenile Court jurists to help find solutions for children that cannot stand trial but need extra help• Preventive strategies are necessary to keep children from needing to come into care

Director's Updates – Jacqueline Fletcher

Action Item: Jen Croessmann will send a calendar with the recruitment events

- 90% of the children in care are quickly placed in a family setting and do not experience a wait time to secure a placement at the Jane Edna Hunter building.
- 5K walk had a large turnout and was a big success
- Met with nationwide child welfare advocates – placement shortage is a nationwide crisis
- The ADAMHS Board is helping with funding for the T-Suites
- The agency is partnering with A Place 4 Me, Family First Village, The ADAMHS Board, the Board of Developmental Disabilities, Fostering Hope, the Police Athletic League, Ohio Mentor, and others to help provide services for the youth in the building.
- Employees are being offered crisis intervention training by the Sheriff's Office.
- Moore Counseling is assisting with counseling for secondary trauma

David Merriman – DCFS had more new hires than any other County agency

Subcommittee Updates: Prevention, Intervention, Government

Action Item: Jen Croessmann will make the changes to the website to reflect the revised meeting times

- **Intervention – Jen Croessmann** – Gabriella Celeste shared her screen while Jen Croessmann discussed the elements of the newly revised dashboard.
Lakecia wild – Motion to accept data dashboard
Gabriella Celeste – second
Vote to approve unanimous
- **Prevention Subcommittee – Marilee Santiago**
Meeting rescheduled to July 14th at 11:00am
- **Governance Subcommittee – Lakecia Wild**
 - In person board meeting in October from 4:00-6:00 at a community library – location to be finalized
 - Volunteers are needed for a Community Townhall meeting in December – Beverly Charles and Gabriella Celeste agreed to help
 - Community Events – Verna Darby – there is a Fatherhood Event June 17th, Marilee Santiago – there is a Multicultural Children's Health Exp at the Cleveland Zoo on various dates during the summer.

- Motion to adjourn – Lakecia Wild
- Second – Gabriella Celeste
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Next Meeting: August 2, 2023, 6:00pm
Location – Teams
Recorder – Deborah Barber