

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING	Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:00 pm -8:00 pm – Teams
ATTENDEES	Gabriella Celeste, Beverly Charles, David Crampton, Jennifer Croessmann (DCFS), Verna Darby, Natasha Sam-Yellowe, Jacqueline Fletcher (DCFS), Andrew Garner, Angela Newman-White, Debra Rex, Beverly Torres (DCFS), Lakecia Wild Guests – Jennifer Johnson (Canopy), Laura Moseley (Canopy), Alyssa H. (Cleveland Documenters), Lisa Peterka (DCFS), Rachelle Jones (JFS Worker), Jada, Christian Anderson (Guest), Anatasia Dimtropolis, Cleveland 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 October 4, 2023• Lakecia Wild – motion to accept.• David Crampton – 2nd• Minutes Approved
	Public Comment
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
	Guests — Christian Andersen – Recipient of PCSAO Award Jennifer Johnson - Canopy
Gather questions for Jennifer Johnson and bring them to the next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christian Andersen was introduced by Beverly Torres. He is a former foster youth and the recipient of the PCSAO Rising Up and Moving Forward Award, He is also an advocate for children in foster care. He shared some of his experiences and took questions regarding his experiences.• Jennifer Johnson discussed the Child Protection Teams Program. She thanked the board for their support and discussed how the Child Protection Teams are working. They started taking cases in July and have since seen 38 families. The referrals are trending upward with expansive criteria added for eligibility.

Director's Updates – Jacqueline Fletcher

- Recap of community forums in 2023 to facilitate discussion with the public regarding child welfare and creating action plans. Plans to continue more forums in other areas of the County in 2024.
- Work force retention grant – work has started on new workspaces for case carrying staff.
- T-Suites – 40 youth have been served to date; it is a short-term emergency facility.
- Introduced Beverly Torres – she is the new deputy director.
- Wellness Campus updates – Announcements to be made soon.
- DCFS staff now have access to Speak-Write to facilitate record keeping

Subcommittee Updates: Prevention, Intervention, Government

- **Intervention – David Crampton** - review of dashboard data, approved for posting.
- **Prevention Subcommittee – Gabriella Celeste** – Andrew Garner is putting together a position statement, please give feedback before next meeting.
- **Governance Subcommittee – Lakecia Wild** – proposed dates for next year will be emailed to the board. Please compile proposed goals for next year to discuss at the next meeting.

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

Next Meeting: February 7, 2024, 4:00pm – 6:00 PM

Location – TBD

Recorder – Deborah Barber