

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

4:00 pm -6:00 pm – Cuyahoga County Administration Building

ATTENDEES

Karin Austin (DCFS), Chris Cabot, Gabriella Celeste, Beverly Charles, David Crampton, Jacqueline Fletcher, Andrew Garner, Angela Newman-White, Debra Rex, Lakecia Wild

Guests – Kellie Morris (Cleveland Documenters)

MINUTES

Available Online –Deborah Barber will post minutes upon approval

RECORDER

Deborah Barber

AGENDA ITEMS

Introduce and Welcome

- Andrew Garner opened meeting.
- Introductions
- Motion to accept meeting minutes from April 2024
- David Crampton – 1st
- Deb Rex – 2nd
- Minutes Approved

Public Comment

DISCUSSION

- None.

Director's Report – given by Chris Cabot for Jacqueline Fletcher

Action Item – Chris Cabot will send the board a redacted case so they can see the flow of a typical case.

Action Item – The Board requests information on complex cases that repeatedly end up at JEH.

Action Item – Deb Rex volunteered to review the complex cases and lend her expertise.

- An overview of the CPT was given, it was a favorable report. It is felt that information is shared more easily. Most cases come through DCFS. There is some frustration with law enforcement not sending many cases. The hospitals can share medical records more readily.
- Children in the Building – the number of children and the number of days spent in the building has decreased. The staff still meets every morning to discuss placement needs of children.
- Staffing Updates – Staffing levels are up, new workers are starting soon, higher staffing levels help to decrease the caseloads.
- Kinship – There has been a decrease in the number of kinship homes, but an increase in the number of child specific foster homes.

Subcommittees

Action Item – The Advisory Board would like the number of referrals to T-Suites and their length of stay listed on the dashboard. They would also like the CPT added to the dashboard.

Intervention

- The Data Dashboard was reviewed by David Crampton. David Crampton – Motion to accept.
Deb Rex – 2nd
Dashboard approved to be posted on the website.

Governance

- June 11th new members will be voted on by council – Bianca Crawford, Verna Darby, Daniel Smith
- Natasha Sam-Yellowe has stepped down.
- New committee chairs are needed.

Prevention

- Gabriella Celeste and David Crampton took a tour of the Wellness Campus. They brought a brochure that outlined the project.
- Gabriella Celeste emphasized that we need to be consistent with prevention. She provided the following quote:
“Prevention is creating and sustaining the conditions for thriving families with policies and practices that promote child and family wellness and stability.”
She also provided the following link:
<https://case.edu/schubertcenter/node/2989>

Open Discussion

- Cleveland.com has a series of articles available about children in crisis.
- Brief discussion of House Bill 512 – which would create emergency child placement centers, and House bill 583 – which delineates requirements for group homes.
- David Crampton will be on sabbatical next year and he also was just appointed to CASA.
- Motion to adjourn.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm

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

Location – County Headquarters, 2079 E 9th St., Room A, Cleveland, OH 44115

Recorder – Deborah Barber