

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING	Wednesday, December 4, 2024 4:00 pm -6:00 pm – Cuyahoga County Administration Building/Teams
ATTENDEES	Gabriella Celeste, Beverly Charles, David Crampton, Bianca Crawford, Jacqueline Fletcher (DCFS), Andrew Garner, Angela Newman-White, Debra Rex, Daniel Smith, Beverly Torres (DCFS), Lakecia Wild Guests – Gretchen Dupps (Cleveland Angels), Apryl Rashid (Cleveland Angels), Antoinette Williams (Cleveland Documenters), Mike D. (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 October 2, 2024• Gabriella Celeste– 1st• Beverly Charles– 2nd• Minutes Approved
	Public Comment
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
	Gretchen Dupps and Apryl Rashid – Cleveland Angels
Beverly Torres for DCFS will facilitate interaction between Gretchen Dupps and Apryl Rashid, and the DCFS Emancipation Unit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gretchen Dupps, executive director of Cleveland Angels and Apryl Rashid, program director for Cleveland Angels, presented an overview of the non-profit organization Cleveland Angels. Cleveland Angels is a community-based organization supporting aged-out youth and children and families currently experiencing the foster care system. Volunteers are matched with children to provide mentorship and support.

Director's Report – Jacqueline Fletcher	
<p>Lakecia Wild asked that the Advisory Board be notified of staff events so the Advisory Board could attend.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director's Report was presented in concert with the presentation of the Dashboard. • Discussion of the Adoption Department – Beverly Torres (DCFS) explained how there are currently two adoption units embedded into the extended unit. • Safety threats are up – the staff is increasing visits in the building and traveling in pairs. • Foster parent recruitment is a priority. Staff is continuing to support kinship caregivers to become foster parents. • Advisory Board member Bianca Crawford complimented workers for their efforts • Advisory Board member Daniel Smith complimented workers for their face-to-face contacts with clients. • The staff is working to engage fathers. • The Police MOU meeting is in January. • There were ten days over Thanksgiving without children staying in the building.

Subcommittees	
<p>David Crampton will work with Karin Austin (DCFS) to rework the Dashboard to better meet current needs.</p> <p>The Advisory Board will invite the new pediatric specialist to attend the Advisory Board meeting in April.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention – David Crampton – presentation of the DCFS Dashboard • Motion to approve the Dashboard – David Crampton • Second – Gabriella Celeste • Dashboard Approved • Governance – Angela Newman-White – They are meeting soon. • Prevention – Gabriella Celeste –Gabrielle Celeste and Angela Newman-White had a successful meeting with the hospitals.

Information Sharing /Adjournment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates – December 12th First Year Cleveland will be hosting an event. Registration is required. • Adjournment

[Next Meeting:](#) February 5, 2025, 4:00pm – 6:00 PM
Location – County Headquarters, 2079 E 9th St., Room A, Cleveland, OH 44115