

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING	Wednesday, August 6, 2025 4:00 pm -6:00 pm – Cuyahoga County Administration Building/Teams
ATTENDEES	Karin Austin (DCFS), Gabriella Celeste, Beverly Charles, David Crampton, Bianca Crawford, Verna Darby, Jacqueline Fletcher (DCFS), Andrew Garner, Angela Newman-White, Debra Rex, Daniel Smith, Lakecia Wild Guests –Dawnya Underwood (HOPE Campus Director), Rachel 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 June 4, 2025 David Crampton– 1st Bianca Crawford – 2nd Minutes Approved
	Public Comment
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verna Darby requested help with a call she received. Karin Austin asked that she please contact her after the meeting, and she would assist.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Speakers: Dawnya Underwood – HOPE Campus Diretor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The renovations on the HOPE Campus will hopefully be complete October 31st. There will be six units. They will then engage in licensing the beds soon. They should be able to house between 50-55 youth with both open residential and intensive therapeutic beds available. There should be eighteen beds for emergencies (T-Suites). Ideally the length of stay will be around thirty days for T-Suits, three to six months for intensive therapeutic treatment, and six to nine months for open residential beds. Hopefully sometime in November they will begin renovations on the Welcome Center. Hopefully it will be ready to accept families in the fall of 2026. They are launching a Youth Advisory Council. It will be in partnership with A Place for Me.

Director's Report – Jacqueline Fletcher	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacqueline Fletcher thanked Dawnya Underwood for her update on the HOPE Campus. She updated the Advisory Board on the looming cuts to Medicaid that will impact DCFS. She informed the board that the DCY Placement Team is expanding their regional support. She updated the board that over 400 cases have been referred to the Child Protection Team. In 2025 there have been about 115 cases. Rachel Benders will present information about the Child Wellness Summit to the ADAMHS Board. It will potentially be a tight budget cycle for DCFS. DCFS must fund their mandates first. She stated Karen Stormann's unit provides family supports to help with prevention. Kara Davis will attend the meeting in October and provide the director's report update.

Subcommittees	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention – David Crampton – The next Dashboard will be presented at the October meeting. 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. Prevention – Gabriella Celeste – The committee met and discussed the HOPE Center. The next Prevention Committee meeting is October 3rd.

Information Sharing /Adjournment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates – Michael Bokmiller (Canopy) – October 29th Canopy is having a conference that will include DCFS, law enforcement, health care workers, victim advocates among others Bianca Crawford shared that there will be a Townhall on September 26th. They also moved to a new location August 15th. Angela Newman-White shared that First Year Cleveland will be having their quarterly community partner gathering tomorrow from 9:00-11:00. The session will focus on fathers. First Year Cleveland will also be releasing another round of mini grants. The deadline to apply is August 26th. Adjournment

[Next Meeting:](#) October 1, 2025, 4:00pm – 6:00 PM
Location – County Headquarters, 2079 E 9th St., Room A, Cleveland, OH 44115