

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING	Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:00 pm -6:00 pm
ATTENDEES	Rachel Amick (DCFS), Gabriella Celeste, Beverly Charles, David Crampton, Bianca Crawford, Verna Darby, Jacqueline Fletcher (DCFS), Andrew Garner, Angela Newman-White, Deb Rex, Daniel Smith, Lakecia Wild Guests – Tiffany Banks (Ohio Guidestone), Lorraine Stehlik (Ohio Guidestone), Sabrina Adams (Cleveland Documenters)
MINUTES	Available Online –Deborah Barber will post minutes upon approval
RECORDER	Deborah Barber

AGENDA ITEMS

	Introduction and Welcome
Minutes will be posted on the DCFS Advisory Board website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela Newman-White opened meeting• Call to Order and Introductions• Public Comment - None• Motion to accept meeting minutes from December 3, 2025• Bianca Crawford– 1st• Lakecia Wild– 2nd• Minutes Approved

MRSS OVERVIEW – Ohio Guidestone – Tiffany Banks, Lorraine Stehlik

- Mobile Response and Stabilization Services – MRSS functions within Ohio’s crisis system to improve lives and reduce costs of Ohio youth. It is instrumental in averting unnecessary emergency department visits, inpatient admissions, out of home placement disruptions, and juvenile justice involvement. One MRSS provider is assigned to each of the 18 regions across Ohio’s 88 counties. It is a Firehouse Model. The goal is to provide 24/7 mobile response by April 2028. 988 screens for emergency needs and serve as a single access point for MRSS. The scope of activities includes de-escalation, crisis intervention, initial assessment, safety planning, and follow-up.

	Director's Report – Jacqueline Fletcher
	Workforce updates – DCFS is down 19 employees, there is still a hiring freeze implemented by the county, as a result caseloads are trending up. There were 261 adoptions in 2025. The KinFirst Event kicked off 2/3/2026. There has been a 21% reduction in out-of-home care.

	Subcommittees
The Data Dashboard will be posted on the DCFS Advisory Board website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance – Angela Newman-White – It is the last meeting for Angela Newman-White, Deb Rex and Beverly Charles. 3 new members' names have been submitted. They are expected to attend the April meeting. Starting at the April 1st meeting Verna Darby will serve as the new chair. • Intervention – Bianca Crawford – the committee had its first meeting • Data Dashboard Presentation – David Crampton, Rachael Amick – The data dashboard was presented. David Crampton made a motion to accept the dashboard for posting. Angela Newman-White 2nd. Dashboard was approved for posting. • Prevention – Gabriella Celeste - The committee met and discussed childcare, respite and crisis response

Information Sharing/Adjournment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates – Angela Newman-White – First Year Cleveland received \$5.4 million, it will fund 10-12 organizations. Bianca Crawford - received \$500,000 for teen moms. Gabriella Celeste – Indicated there will be a Webinar on Feb. 13th at 1:00 addressing AI and children's mental health. <p>Adjournment</p>	

Next Meeting: April 1, 2026, 4:00pm – 6:00 PM
Location – County Headquarters, 2079 E 9th St., Room A, Cleveland, OH 44115