

# Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

## Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Monday, August 12, 2019</b> 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Westshore Resource Center, 9830 Lorain Avenue
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Tammy Chapman-Wagner, Cindy Weiskittel, Chris Cabot, Gabriella Celeste, Andy Garner, David Crampton, Debra Rex, Yvonne Conwell, Angela Newman-White, Christin Farmer and Lakecia Wild
<b>APPROVAL OF APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING MINUTES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Board Members present reported that they had an opportunity to review the April 3, 2019 draft meeting minutes</li> <li>Board Members unanimously approved the draft minutes</li> <li>Approved minutes, bylaws, and agendas will be posted online on the County website Boards and Commissions Children and Family Services Advisory Board page <a href="http://bc.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Children-Family-Services-Advisory-Board.aspx">http://bc.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Children-Family-Services-Advisory-Board.aspx</a></li> </ul>

### AGENDA ITEM

	<b>TOPIC – Set Calendar for Regular Advisory Board Meetings</b>	<b>FACILITATOR(S)</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debra Rex recommended meeting every other month for the 1<sup>st</sup> year to get to know each other and the issues</li> <li>October 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. (Regina Frazier, Recorder)</li> <li>December 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</li> <li>February 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</li> <li>April 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Regina Frazier, Recorder)</li> <li>June 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</li> <li>All meeting details will be posted on the County website Boards and Commissions page calendar <a href="http://bc.cuyahogacounty.us/">http://bc.cuyahogacounty.us/</a></li> </ul>	

	<b>TOPIC – Agree on Agenda-setting, location &amp; notice process</b>	<b>FACILITATOR(S)</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not a fixed location in the community</li> <li>Public transportation accessible</li> <li>Library/Rec. Center – places that are inviting</li> <li>DCFS can send a list of Collab locations</li> </ul> <p><u>Notice Process of Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deonna Kirpatrick’s idea on how to get the word out in the community</li> <li>Send at least to collabs that we are coming</li> <li>Library flyers</li> <li>Council Newsletters</li> <li>City Council Newsletters</li> <li>Neighborhood/Community Newsletter</li> <li>Cindy Weiskittel will follow up with Deonna Kirkpatrick</li> <li>Deonna will attend the next meeting and bring location and advertising ideas</li> </ul> <p><u>Agenda Setting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agendas will develop over time</li> <li>Add to agenda when needed</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard agenda to start</li> </ul>
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	<b>TOPIC – Review, discuss and approve draft by-laws</b>	<b>FACILITATOR(S)</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By-laws – Governing document, public document can be changed with full vote</li> <li>• David Crampton suggested county law department to review</li> <li>• Gabriella Celeste put a draft together Levine Ross – Policy Analyst needs a copy per Council Conwell</li> <li>• Gabriella Celeste will edit Articles I &amp; II. David Crampton/Debra Rex approved</li> <li>• Gabriella Celest will make necessary changes and submit to law department for review</li> <li>• Board members recommend an odd number of members for voting purposes – 11</li> <li>• Debra Rex asked is there a need for a max number – Ask Law Department for interpretation of Children Advisory Board</li> <li>• Article 3 – Recommendation and review by law department</li> <li>• Article 4 – Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary – 3 officers</li> <li>• Article 5 – No changes</li> <li>• Article 6 – Programming Services Committee &amp; Policy &amp; Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Is this an internal or external facing document?</li> <li>• How does the community view DCFS?</li> <li>• Externally Advocacy is an important role for board members</li> <li>• What is the temperature of the room – who has the time to do the extra community work</li> <li>• Committee meetings will have to be posted for public</li> <li>• Should the committees be divided in a Prevention &amp; Intervention Committee with the tasks described</li> <li>• Debra Rex wants to assure we don't lose the Advocacy side of the Board</li> <li>• Angela Newman-White recommended Prevention and Intervention – both would have policy, advocacy and education within the group</li> <li>• Angela Newman-White will work on revised language for the committees</li> </ul>	

	<b>TOPIC – Identify priorities for 1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	<b>FACILITATOR(S)</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Councilwoman Council's letter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare – Kids not staying in building – Providence &amp; SAFY have been contracted to assist</li> <li>• TDMs during work hours for families that work doesn't seem feasible</li> <li>• Cindy Weiskittel will provide an update on letter from Councilwoman</li> </ul>	

	<b>TOPIC – Brief Status Report by DCFS Director</b>	<b>FACILITATOR(S)</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel recommendations Update</li> <li>• Fathers Matter Too campaign</li> <li>• 5,000 children active (400 children no father ID) 92% ID father</li> <li>• Literature development; bathroom readers</li> <li>• Increase in fathers at TDM table</li> <li>• Increase is fathers on case plans</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of referrals to the hotline, we screen in about 60%</li> <li>• Vacancies increased</li> </ul> <p>Moving past the fatality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff were operating from a place of fear</li> <li>• Workers can't remove on their own authority as in years past</li> <li>• Other systems have some fear – Court giving us custody when not asking</li> </ul> <p>Kin Work Impressive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of kids placed with kin and stabilizing</li> <li>• STS – Caseloads – 11.5</li> <li>• ES – Caseloads – 14</li> <li>• Over 600 children in permanent custody</li> <li>• 125 children Aged out</li> <li>• 82 children graduated from high school/8 graduated from college</li> <li>• Disproportionality – the deeper a child goes into our system the more likely they are to be African American</li> </ul> <p>LGBTQ Grant – safely ID kids in care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working to provide supports to them once identified so they can safely return home.</li> </ul> <p>START Program – applied for State grant</p> <p>Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$50 million a year on board and care</li> <li>• State had added additional dollars for Kin care</li> </ul> <p>How can the Board be helpful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy stated that we help educate the community on the work we do and understand it's going to take all of us to keep children safe. Advocacy...</li> <li>• Help them understand the scope of the work we do</li> <li>• Developing relationships</li> <li>• Councilwoman asked, "How do you balance the work with the numbers going up?"</li> <li>• Around 50% of the Frontline workers have less than 3 years of experience we need to stabilize our workforce</li> <li>• Christin Farmer asked; How do systems work with our system? What causes parents to abuse and neglect their children? Education/unemployment rates are all stressing families. May have a family history of abuse and neglect. Gives them opportunity to advance for more training and educational programs and resources for our community</li> </ul>
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	TOPIC – Next Step(s)	FACILITATOR(S)
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Homework – Ideas on Priorities for the 1 <sup>st</sup> 6 months or year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy Weiskittel - Status report on panel recommendations before next meeting</li> </ul>	

**Next Meeting:**

**October 29, 2019**  
**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Quincy Place**  
**Room #261**