

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING	Tuesday, October 29, 2019 4:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m. – Quincy Place, 8311 Quincy Avenue
ATTENDEES	Gabriella Celeste, Andrew Garner, David Crampton, Debra Rex, Angela Newman-White, Christin Farmer, Natasha Davis, Beverly Charles, Lakecia Wild, Tammy Chapman-Wagner, Cindy Weiskittel, Jacqueline McCray and Deonna Kirkpatrick
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Available online – Cindy Weiskittel will post them for the public to view.
RECORDER	Regina Frazier

AGENDA ITEMS

	Introduce and Welcome
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcomed new member Natasha Davis (she replaced Sonia Emerson)• Went around table and everyone introduced themselves at the meeting• Voted on new member, Natasha Davis and the Ayes have the vote
	Action Item: Adopt August Meeting Minutes
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August minutes were adopted. Ayes have the majority vote• Minutes will be recorded by the County's Administrative Assistants and they will rotate within the clerical staff
	Public Comment (5 minutes per individual)
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were no public comments from anyone at the meeting

Action Item: Adopt advisory Board Bylaws

DISCUSSION

- Motion to approve Bylaws with revisions; Ayes have the vote
- Angela Newman-White revised page 9 & 10
- Law Department looked over the Bylaws. Changes are in blue print
- Asked about additional members on Page 3 and the answer was no.
- They need necessary officers – Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary (ensure that minutes are accurate).
- Check the number of meetings needed
- Bylaws will be posted on County Website

Action Item: Elect Officers

DISCUSSION

- Founding purposes – motion to anyone who is interested
- Terms are 2 years (can change terms to 1 year)
- Membership is for 4 years
- The Elected Officers are as follows:
 - Chair – Christin Farmer
 - Vice-Chair – Gabriella Celeste
 - Secretary – Debra Rex

Further Discussion: Establish Working Committees

DISCUSSION

- 3 Sub-committees
 - Prevention Committee Members (Systemic Healing, gaining support, housing and grant): Angela Newman-White, Lakecia Wild, Andrew Garner, Natasha Davis and Gabriella Celeste
 - Intervention Committee Members (Bridges, staff and skill training, kinship and grant): David Crampton, Debra Rex, Beverly Charles and Christin Farmer
 - Government Committee Members: Lakecia Wild, Gabrielle Celeste and Christin Farmer
- Update list of Board Members
- Contact Victor for his preference on Subcommittees
- You can learn as you go to hold office or be an officer

Brief Update: DCFS Administrator

DISCUSSION

- Cynthia Weiskittel updated the committee on County data
- 2900 kids in care; more than 3 years in relative care. 2/3 of the kids are in County
- Some kids are placed as far away as Oklahoma and Arkansas
- State is discussing paying kin to provide care for their relatives
- Cynthia Weiskittel made recommendations to pay kin to the County Council
- The CANOPY Child Advocacy Center (CAC) opened in 11/18. Since then, more than 600 children have been seen. The goal of the CAC is to improve working relationships with all systems, such as the police and to have one place families can to get all their service needs met.
- County is good with Cleveland Police Department
- Opiate money is coming – 3.4 million dollars
- Use the Opiate money to restore START (serves women with positive child at birth)
- \$1 million dollars for children's board and care
- 1997 START came to Cleveland
- Laid off Advocates in 1998
- # of drug exposed babies is going up (more with opiates)
- Increased involvement with dads; nice improvement with dads at the table. Still have long way to go
- Hiring of retired officers; Need 10 officers and 2 recommended
- Shadow Box – Program to expedite how workers look at different options. Conversations will help improve their critical thinking, communication, and decision making. All Investigations Staff have gone through 3 or 4 scenarios. They are teaching them not to accept what the parent says. Learn to investigate and come up with multiple hypotheses.
- Cost of Board and Care is \$60 million
- Children placed with kin, caregivers receive a small amount of cash each month if they can prove a blood relation and medical cards. Food stamps and child care are based on kinship family's income.
- Over 1/3 of the children are with their kin
- 1,073 children are in Kin placement

	ACTION ITEM: Determine Future Meeting Locations
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following locations were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tri-C; Downtown, East side and West side - Libraries; Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, Warrensville, Cleveland • Still waiting on response from the LGBT for December 16th meeting. If no response, we may need to change the location. • The Monday, February 10th meeting will be held at Five Pointe Community Center in the Collinwood Neighborhood. The address is 813 East 152nd Street, Cleveland.

	ACTION ITEMS: Develop Marketing Strategies to Increase Public Awareness
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed a series of community meetings – Public meetings • Radio ads – didn't work • Direct Mail to families with open cases and to key community partners, professionals, families, Collaboratives and tell them the location • We need more involvement with the community • Who is coming to the meetings? Who is in the audience? • Do we need to report out to the community? • We need to figure out who do we want to attend the meetings • Call out to community – Prevention and Intervention Professionals • Committees include community members • Flexible awareness to draw people in; 1. Campaign and billboards; 2. Sharing stories • Deonna Kirkpatrick shared the HOPE for the Holidays campaign with the committee; donate toys, money and/or adopt a family • Jacqueline McCray share the Kinnect Program. Kinship Navigation Program, a local organization, awarded a grant in early Spring. Information is forth coming.

Topics for Next Meeting	
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in Children – need time for them to prepare to present to the committee • The committee has put Invest in Children off long enough. Do we need more information from them before they present? • John is on the Board of Health’s Fatality Review. Funds go through the Board of Health to Invest in Children. Rebekah Dorman felt like the committee would like to learn more about this • Invest in Children wants to present more than just doing a Public Comment; they can have 20-30 minutes to present • Should we have Invest in Children present in December? • Child Protection Teams’ role they play to increase public/people understanding • Need protocols for people to present at meetings; if not, everybody will want to present – set timeframes • Procedures need to be put on next agenda • Limit presentation to 20 minutes • Is there something the committee wants to take on? • Are the presentations educating the committee? • What are they going to do with the information? • How do you get the information on the agenda? • Standing Community Chair Reports; Subcommittees should meet before the Board meetings. • Set deadline to put items on the agenda • Send email asking for agenda items 2 weeks out before the Committee Meeting • Send Agenda Items to Christin Farmer first then to Jennifer Croessmann

Next Meeting:

December 16, 2019

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location – LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland

Recorder - TBD