

# CCDCFS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 7, 2020

3:30pm - 5:30pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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Recorder: Kathleen Mannion

Attendees: Cynthia Weiskittel, Lakecia Wild, Jennifer Croessmann, Karen Anderson, Tamara Chapman-Wagner, David Crompton, Gabriella Celeste, Andrew Garner, Natasha Davis, Debra Rex, Beverly Charles, Verna Darby, Marielee Santiago, and Angela Newman-White

## MINUTES

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**Agenda item:** CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, & WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New member Marielee Santiago

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**Agenda item:** ACTION ITEM

### Discussion:

Approval of October 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- Need to proactively note who motions approvals for meeting minutes
- CPT Project update was not clear

### Conclusions:

Meeting minutes will not be approved during this meeting. Meeting minutes will be approved through email.

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**Agenda item:** DIRECTOR'S UPDATE REPORT

### Discussion:

Sizemore Fatality Update

- Parents have filed a lawsuit
- Medical Examiner ruled the child's death accidental

County Budget

- \$1.5M for emergency childcare shelter to help combat children spending the night in the building while waiting for placements
  - Some network providers are willing to offer up extra beds
- \$3.3M for payments to kinship caregivers
  - Able to get a few more staff in the 30 Days to Family program starting in Jan.
  - Payments still allow caregivers to get child-only benefits from JFS if they qualify (must be a blood relative)
  - Over 1/3 of our kids are placed with kinship caregivers
  - Monthly payments per child proposed at \$200 for children ages 0 – 9 and \$400 children ages 10 and up
- Drop-in center is getting \$500k dollars
  - This center will be for teens in agency custody

Blind Screening Hotline Report

- When reviewing narrative of calls coming into hotline; supervisors did not look at race or address during the screening process
- Investigating supervisors screen calls and referrals through decision trees based on state guidelines

- Just completed a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of blind screening due to decreased calls in the beginning of the pandemic – no changes in outcomes
- Some families want to make clear that they are bi-racial
  - Does the agency underserve some families based upon their race and/or geographic location?
- Law enforcement and hospital referrals are increasing while family and school referrals are decreasing
- COVID-19 impact on screening
  - Screening rates have not changed

#### Family First Prevention Act (FFPSA)

- Preventative services – starts in OH 10/1/21
- MST & Ohio START will be able to be reimbursed
- Reviewed chart to determine what we have now in Cuyahoga and what we need
- Prevention services for families that are not in agency custody.
  - There are currently 2,224 kids with supportive services (voluntary)
  - State clearinghouse of approved promising practice and evidence-based services is limited, and the state continues to review proposals
- A screening guideline will need to be looked at and adapted to make sure the right families are getting preventive services
- State teams have been working on changes in foster care and residential treatment programs throughout the state mandated by FFPSA
- Community Education – community organizations can utilize the speaker's bureau, mandated reporter training and attend TDM meetings/staffings with families to learn more about DCFS
  - "Welcome to the Agency" videos suggested for families to learn about supportive services in a consistent positive way
  - Better use of technology
    - Sharing of positive experiences with the agency
    - How to Educate Mandated Reporters for Preventative Services

#### Healthy Family America

- What can these mothers do to prevent their children from being taken at birth?
  - Removal at birth – there must be a major safety concern
  - Team Decision Making meetings (aka staffings) have been held before every removal since the early 1990s ,and if there is an emergency removal the meeting takes place the following business day.
    - Staffing's are currently held by phone/MS Teams

#### Comprehensive Wraparound

- Safe babies court teams for kids ages 0 - 3
  - Expedites trauma-focused services to families
  - Coordinator will help to ensure the right services are in place at the right time and keep the team working together
  - Research has shown this model is able to reunify children quicker, more frequent interactions between mom and children, wraparound services, frequent supportive hearings
  - Just beginning the planning phase with a coordinator, planning team, and steering committee
  - Currently Judge Sweeney oversees and will begin a sa pilot in her court room to expand based on data
  - This is an effort between the courts, DCFS, families, and the community
  - Court will mimic drug court
    - Court Reviews
    - Trauma Focus

#### Geographic Assignment Update

- Case Western Reserve looked at GEO lines
  - No statistically significant changes
- Short-Term departments serve East/West/South of county
- Extended departments serve a group of zip codes and neighborhoods that also correspond with neighborhood community collaboratives

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**Agenda item:** SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

**Discussion:**

Governance sub-committee:

- On 11/16 and 11/18 the Advisory Board met with Armond Budish and the County Council to prevent the Advisory Board status report
  - Council asked questions about the board's focus moving fwd.
  - Council and Executive Budish encouraged the board to be aware of both the external and internal racial equity commissions at the county level
  - Council asked for a 6-mo. update and is happy to add presentations to the HHS Committee agenda

Intervention sub-committee

- Data Dashboard format for 2021 discussed
  - Reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> draft of a data dashboard to be used to track 9 points from the child welfare expert panel review recommendations
  - Board discussed this format and frequency of reviews
    - Dashboard should be in time condensed in an additional cover chart that depicts by quarter:
      - Baseline
      - Benchmarks/goals
      - Progress status (e.g. green, yellow, red)
  - David Crampton proposed, and the Board voted unanimously, to continue using the dashboard info. discussed, quarterly, reviews – next review Q4 2020 at Feb. 2021 board meeting through a motion by Angela Newman-White and a second by Gabriella Celeste
  - Goal for Intervention committee to do a cover sheet
- Bridges connections
  - Discussion re: youth aging out of foster care and the problems they face
    - Kids are ending up homeless even with the help of this program
    - Board continues to request data re: numbers of youth enrolled, outcomes, youth terminated from the program and rationale, and homeless information, as well as more specific requirements for young adults with mental health and/or developmental disabilities
  - Bridges is a regional program
  - Sub-committee Chair Dr. Crampton continues requests to the state for data to determine advocacy needs

Prevention Committee

- Focus on larger impact of social determinants like racism on families including the added stress of DCFS involvement
- Purpose of equity statement is to more formally align with the County-wide plan and drill down into the underlying inequities that drive disparities in DCFS cases
- Board reviewed statement and offered and amendment to add that services are delivered in a culturally competent manner as well as add the adoption date
- Board voted to approve the Equity Statement as amended with a motion made by Debra Rex and a second by Gabriella Celeste
- Sending to Citizen's Advisory Council on Equity Chair Nailah K. Byrd – to show the board's intention to work with this council
- Angela to send to Jennifer to post on the County & DCFS websites