

# ***Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes***

July 19, 2021

## **I. Call to Order and Overview of Meeting**

Robin Donart called the meeting to order at 9:04am on July 19, 2021. The meeting was virtual. After welcoming everyone, she reviewed the agenda in which Commissioners will hear perspectives from Child Welfare, OHA and Statewide Systems of Care on the Red/Orange/Green document created by the Commission.

## **II. Roll Call and Welcome Activity**

The following Commissioners were present: Caroline Cruz, Pamela Heisler, Jessica Lloyd-Rogers, Robin Donart, Alicia Richard, Isha Charlie McNeely, Casey Dreher, Mamadou Toure. Guests included: Rebecca Jones Gaston, Stacey Loboy, Kim Keller, and Billy Cordero from DHS). Shannon Karston from OHA, and Adam Rodakowski from System of Care. Staff present: Rosa Klein (Gov. Office) and Kali Scolnick (Casey Family Programs).

Kali Scolnick led the group in What does your name mean? Where did it come from?

## **III. Updates/Info**

- a) DHS-Child Welfare – Billy Cordero gave an overview of the progress on Recruitment and Retention Plans. There is a Champion for every district and plans are created for the specific characteristics of the district. Gives a statewide lens of issues preventing retention and additional recruiting strategies while being flexible to meet needs of district. The primary focus is a draft of measurable goals. Draft expected by end of Spring '22. Commission expressed a wish to see more detailed plans.
- b) DHS-Child Welfare – Director Rebecca Jones Gaston reported on work to integrate placement stability and relative placement as well as retention with the Vision for Transformation. Working on a new recruiting onboarding message that emphasizes reunification is primary. Ongoing education of staff using internal messages to affirm families, particularly BIPOC families. Focusing on images presented, messages, planning and goals. Setting clear expectations for “how we do our work” includes expected behaviors and practice model. Using training and coaching. Holding staff accountable by monitoring and measuring.

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- c) DHS Child Welfare – Kim Keller – emphasized internal focus on intentional hiring practices – bringing individuals in with the new values system. Will be providing five trainings statewide for all staff.
- d) Governor's System of Care Advisory Council – Chair, Adam Rodakowski – explained the mission is to improve and strengthen system from ages 0-25 across all systems. The 25 members are still finding footing due to Covid-19 interruptions. Looking at how to develop more diversity on the Council using lens of racial justice and equity along with youth and family voice. Long range plan is to focus on high level priority population (approx. 650 children/youth) involved with 3+ systems. Majority (450) fall into OHA, CW, and IDD. Other involvement may be Medicaid, CW, Juvenile Justice. Goal is to reduce number of children/youth involved with 3 systems by investing earlier in the process. Sees no overlap and opportunities for collaboration with commission.
- e) OHA – Shannon Karsten- Having more upstream conversations before services are need. Focusing on listening to the children and families affected – by conversations not surveys. Currently at 60% of staff capacity. Clients are coming in with more needs and more complex needs because of gaps earlier in the system. Goals are to address the gaps and quality of care, get/provide accurate and timely data, increase youth and family input, be culturally and linguistically responsive. Doing more collaboration with DHS- emphasizing trauma informed care. Data is going to help tell the story. Currently working on a draft 5-year plan.
- f) Gov. Office – Rosa Klein – Very happy with end of leg. Session. Extraordinary investment in Behavioral Health System, particularly for higher end services need by many. Allows for better rates for providers and increased capacity. Our Commission will increase with staff and additional members, along with subcommittee to look at disproportionality and children of color. Discussion of commission involvement in staff selection and placement. Fires created more serious impact than anticipated. Looking for how to prepare for future. Legislative concepts are expected in November. Anticipate opportunities to review concepts and budget beginning in November.

## **IV. Follow up – Discussion on Defining Commission Focus**

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- a) Ensure alignment with red/orange/green document needs
- b) Recruitment and Retention foster homes: Mamadou, Pamela, Alicia- plan for frequency of data monitoring
- c) Workforce recruitment and retention – Casey, Jessica (CWAC- data dashboard)
- d) Collaboration with system of care – Robin, Pamela, Jessica
- e) Deliverables: data dashboard and newsletter -Short term action plan for monitoring data, collaboration with System of Care, Identify barriers with hard 'no's' and work back from there, Understand recruitment and retention of caseworkers

## **V. Approval of May Minutes**

- a) Minutes were approved with minor correction. Pamela moved. Mamadou seconded. Passed unanimously.

## **VI. No Public Comment**

## **VII. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- a) Smaller workgroups to connect . Kali will join smaller groups as she can.
- b) Next meeting: Bring barriers. Rosa will bring info about membership and timelines for new staff, where they will report. Sept. meeting via Zoom

## **VIII. Adjournment**

- a) 12: 35pm
- b) Next meeting: September 20, 2021 - Virtual