

Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission
Minutes from the November 16, 2020 -9:00 am to 1:00pm
Meeting held via Zoom

Members:

Caroline Cruz
Pamela Heisler
Jessica Lloyd-Rogers
Tracy Powell

Robin Donart
Alan Linhares
Isha Charlie McNeely (absent)

Staff: Rosa Klein, Sheril Arroyo, Kali Scolnick

1. Meeting was called to order by Robin Donart at 9.05am. Commission Chairs gave an overview of the agenda and the objectives for the meeting. Approvals were moved to the top because Caroline needed to leave at 10am for another meeting. Motion was made by Pamela H. and seconded by Alan L.
2. September minutes were approved.
3. Kali S. spoke of the importance of permanency and led the engagement activity with the question – “How do you know you are permanent in your family?”
4. ODHS Child Welfare Director Rebecca Jones-Gaston announced Stacey Loboy as the new Foster Care Program Manager. Said that she would be attending the Commission meetings in the future. Rebecca also announced the addition of new Permanency Program Manager Kimberly J. Keller. Both will be bringing good experience, ample knowledge and fresh ideas to their new roles.
Rebecca also talked about the Vision for Transformation, a guiding document that has been at least 6 months in the making. The Vision focuses on closing gaps in service and equity. It is based on the premise that children do better in their families of origin. If that is not possible, they need quality foster families, continued family connections and a sense of permanence. The Vision will affect policy and practice and strive to nourish partnerships. Workforce, Data, Capacity are all subjects of focus. Rebecca said if policies do not align with the vision, they will be parked until later. Current resources – capital, people etc. are limited. Foster Parents will be changed to Resource parents and resource parents have been folded in under Workforce. There is also work to make data collection for LGBTQ+/Two Spirit more accurate. Currently only binary choice is available. There is technical work going on to sort this issue.
Rebecca reminded the Commission that there is an infinite list of expectations. They are currently working to scale it back, set priorities, and reporting out. They are also pairing data with outcomes. Soon, they expect to have a public dashboard for folks to see how things are coming along.
5. Robin reviewed Rep. Stark's visit with the Commission during the September meeting. Reminded Commission members that he was looking for the Commission to give feedback and policy recommendation in different areas, ensuring that nothing dropped that needed attention, stakeholders were involved, and any suggestions for improving the system. He hoped that Commissioners would present at each session.
6. Rosa Klein gave an update. Talked about how the Commission can be more effective. She outlined two pathways. 1) Do deeper policy work, dig in and be the resource for

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child foster care in Oregon. She pointed out that with the statutory expectations and the lack of a budget or staff person, that will be hard. 2) Be a compiler of ideas, look at recommendations from other sources, assess them, and make a final package recommendation to the governor. Her suggestion was to wait to see if a budget/staff person comes out of this upcoming Leg. Session and then decide where to go. She's convinced that getting a budget for the Commission is still a priority. She reminded the commission that legislators need encouragement to advocate.

7. New member Recruitment updates by Rosa Klein. Leg. Approvals were delayed.
8. Pamela Heisler made a presentation about planning for our retreat and prepping for 2021. We need to see where we are currently. What is our shared knowledge? Do we have consensus on shared goals moving forward? Reports were divided up amongst the commissioners to read and bring knowledge to share during retreat (Feb. 22)
9. Bylaws Review was briefly addressed. Jessica will send out and ask for any comments prior to the next meeting.
10. Alan L. gave a CWAC update. Still waiting on more information before deciding what actions to take moving forward. Still figuring out the focus. Also discussed connecting with the State Systems of Care Advisory Committee. Suggestion was made to keep a standing agenda item on each group to share information and make presentations, as well as trading minutes. Still waiting on the finalized compilation from CWAC of different recommendations and actions for ODHS.
11. There was no public comment.
12. Meeting was adjourned at 12.32pm