

# Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission

## Meeting Minutes JULY 2020

**Members in Attendance:** Robin Donart, Alan Linhares, Caroline Cruz, Pamela Heisler, Jessica Lloyd Rogers, Tracy Powell

**Absent:** Timothy Colahan Charlie McNeely

**Staff:** Rosa Klein, Kali Scolnick

### Welcome and Overview

- Welcome from Commission Chairs
- Overview of Agenda and Objectives
- Logistics
- Introductions

### Approvals

- March Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to Approve-Robin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan, unanimous approval
- May Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to Approve-Robin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica, unanimous approval
- Legislative Concept
  - Motion to Approve-Alan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica, unanimous approval
- Amend Bylaws: Secretary Position
  - Motion to Approve-Alan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pamela, unanimous approval
    - Discussion: Jessica noted that other updates would be made in the bylaws and the secretary position. Kali said that this is only a motion to approve the addition of the position. They bylaw updates will happen after the motion is approved.

### New Member Recruitment Updates:

There are three open positions on the commission: one completed application for Mamadou Touré and at least one other expected this week from Joshua Griggs. Rosa stated that we still need to fill the judicial position.

### CWAC Discussion Update

Alan will be sending out an email this week about the workgroup to assess collaboration with Child Welfare Advisory Commission.

### Public Comment

Stacey Wilson, Foster Parent-Speaking about concerns with in-person visitation during COVID19 and maintaining the health and safety in foster families

### Commission Recommendations

Commissioners reviewed and discussed a draft of the COVID-19 recommendations. The recommendations were updated, and a vote was held to approve them.

Recommendations from the Governor's Foster Care Advisory Commission on COVID-related supports for youth in foster care:

- Technology support
  - ensuring reliable and affordable internet access
    - Specifically addressing access in rural areas
  - ensuring the availability of appropriate devices proportionate to the number of youth in the home
- Ensuring educational services continue in a timely manner
  - IEP assessments and testing
  - GED and high school completion requirements
  - Clear and timely communication regarding educational planning with families, including foster parents
- Ensure DHS visitations have clear guidelines that are in alignment with state executive orders and Tribal resolutions and ordinance for the health and safety of the children, families, and foster parents, including a plan for adherence.
- Supports to foster parents to help ameliorate increased stressors due to Shelter in Place/COVID
  - Examples:
    - Increased regular contact with their Certifier for additional supports or needs
    - Increased virtual supports and services for youth
    - Setting up Zoom meetings for groups of foster parents to meet.
    - Maintaining and expanding KEEP support groups throughout the state.

#### **September Meeting Items:**

- Stark and Gelser
- Bio and Foster Parent partnership
- Secretary of State Audit Updates-Can the SOS come and present their Updated findings and recommendations?
- Approval of updated bylaws and nomination of new Secretary