

DCYF Advisory Board Minutes  
Brown Building, SOPS Campus  
June 19, 2023

Attendance: Mike Adamkowski, Rep. DeSimone, Lori Hebert, Rep. Long, Sandra McGonagle, Rep. Seidel, Attorney Beth Margeson, Interim Director Marie Noonan, Associate Commissioner Henn and Melissa Wardner.

Absent/Excused: Sen. Avard, Tessa Dyer, Dolly McPhaul, Heather Raymond, Patricia Stolte and Sen. Soucy.

Approval of May Minutes: Motion to approve as written by Rep. Long, seconded by Rep. DeSimone. All in favor.

Transition Update:

- The posting for the DCYF Director has come down. The Administration is hopeful to fill the position within the month.
- Marie has been attending multiple meetings for the Division and is working on building on Joe Ribsam's work.
- Assoc. Commissioner Henn indicated that Marie was doing a great job as Interim Director. It couldn't have been better timing as the legislative session is mostly over and the Budget has gone through. Marie has been able to focus on staffing issues, etc.

Discuss e-mail concern: An e-mail was received from a constituent that wanted to attend the meeting to "testify" about his dealings with DCYF and the "non-compliance of DCYF Policy, RSA 169-C and RSA 169-D". After reading the e-mail and conferring with DCYF administration, it was decided that the individual should bring their concerns to the Constituent Relations Unit, the Ombudsman Office or the Office of the Child Advocate as this board does not hear case matters.

Board Membership: Missy received an e-mail from Senator Soucy's office indicating that she was not able to attend today's meeting, just prior to the meeting. The Board & DCYF Administration had not been made aware of any new appointments. The appointment letter was requested, received and noted that not only Senator Soucy had been appointment but also Senators Whitley and Carson. Senator Avard was reappointed (who has only attended 1 or 2 meetings). With these new appointments it seems that Tessa Dyer and Dolly McPhaul were not re-appointed. The Board discussed the fact that both Tessa and Dolly had been long time members and that if they wished to continue then maybe we could get the Commissioner to approve and request their reappointment by the Governor. Mike will check with both of them about this.

There was discussion about changes being made in Juvenile Justice Services (JJS):

- Can we get tracking information on JJ from years past to now?
- Can the JJ data be shared each month?
- NH is currently touted as the best model in the country for JJ cases

Marie mentioned that the Division wanted to create an Impact Team to assist offices that were short staff and need assistance handling cases. This team would consist of one supervisor and five CPSW but it was not approved/funded. The Board discussed ways to assist with this:

- Legislation would be needed
- It could be called a pilot project (maybe a 3 to 5 year plan)
- Reps mentioned that there may be some funds available for a “pilot project”
- LSR’s need to be in for September
- Bring your ideas and proposals to the next meeting

Evident Change – National non-profit agency helping to create a Community Response Guide (CRG) for NH to assist individuals with making the decision of reporting to DCYF or contacting a community resource. They will be testing this program soon and would love as many people as possible to participate. It will give you a scenario that you will respond to certain questions and depending on your response, it will tell you if you need to report to DCYF or refer to a community resource. Marie will send the e-mail about the testing and how to sign up.

Granite Pathways (Lori Hebert) won the contract for the Community Navigator. This project will connect families directly to local/community resources.

Rep. Long complimented the workers in the Constituent Relations unit for their work. He has referred many individuals to them and they have always been responsive.

Discussion about the summer schedule and maybe going to different locations for the meetings. Sandra is going to check with Pine Haven (John Reagan to see if we could visit in July or August)

Adjourned at 3:14 by Rep. Long and seconded by Rep. DeSimone.