

DCYF Advisory Board
August 21, 2023

Attendance: Mike Adamkowski, Sandra McGonagle, Lori Hebert, Rep. Sheila Seidel, Rep. Debra DeSimone, Rep. Pat Long, Patty Stolte, Jeff Fleischer and Missy Wardner. (Rep. Seidel will be unavailable for the next 3 meetings due to previously scheduled time off)

Excused: Sen. Soucy

Absent: Sen. Avard, Sen. Carson, Sen. Whitley and Rep. Raymond

The Board welcomed Director Fleischer and explained what the board is comprised of and what they do. Members went around the table and introduced themselves. Director took a moment to speak more about himself and what work he has done. Very excited to be in NH, working for NH as we have great stats and have been nationally recognized.

There was discussion about Evidence based programs but yet we have 375 youth in residential placement. 65 of those youth are out-of-state at an expensive cost. The Division is spending 25% of its budget on these youth.

Mike discussed the OCA's report about Bledsoe and stated that yes, we might have youth in out-of-state care but that might not mean they are further away. It actually could be that placing them in ME or VT is closer to their family than trying to find a place in NH for them. Only 11 of the 65 youth are placed further away than New England. Hopefully youth can be returned now that we have a level 5 facility at Hampstead. How often are the 65 youth visited? Fairly often, believe it's monthly.

Jeff wants to brainstorm with the board, use them as a sounding board. Hoping to get a better balance with community and residential – get youth closer to home. Mentioned a Chicago Day Program where the youth were there from 9am – 9pm but go home at night. He's looking for creative solutions.

Jeff mentioned Mike Valcic's "hot" map showing youth in placement. Will send to Board for review.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm