



Council on Child  
Safety and  
Family Empowerment

**Arizona Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment**

**March 8, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

**Governor's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

A general meeting of the Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment (CSFE) was convened on March 8, 2018 at the Governor's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (21)	
<b>Angela Ducey</b> , Chair, First Lady of Arizona	
<b>Kathryn A. Pidgeon</b> , Co-Chair, Adoption Attorney	
<b>Maria Cristina Fuentes</b> , Director, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
<b>Berisha Black</b> , Director, Arizona Foster Care Initiatives	
<b>Janet L. Garcia</b> , Arizona Senior Director, Casey Family Programs	
<b>Lorrie Henderson</b> , CEO, Jewish Family Services	
<b>Greg McKay</b> , Director, AZ Department of Child Safety	
<b>Zora Manjencich</b> , Assistant Chief Counsel, Attorney General's Office	
<b>Vicki Mayo</b> , Founder and CEO, The Touchpoint Solution	
<b>Colleen McNally</b> , Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Retired	
<b>James D. Molina</b> , Director, Step up Arizona	
<b>Paul S. Mulligan</b> , President and CEO, Catholic Charities	
<b>Darlene Newsom</b> , CEO, UMOM New Day Centers	
<b>Katie O'Dell</b> , State Director AZ 1.27	
<b>Leslie Y. Reprogle</b> , Founder, Agape Adoption Agency Arizona	
<b>Marcia N. Stanton</b> , Senior Injury Prevention Specialist, PCH	
<b>Warren H. Stewart</b> , Pastor, Church of the Remnant	
<b>Andrea Stuart</b> , Executive V.P. Staff Services & Care, ABCS	
<b>Torrie Taj</b> , CEO, Child Crisis Arizona	
<b>Mark Upton</b> , President and CEO, Christian Family Care	
<b>Richard Yarbough</b> , Executive Director, Pilgrim Rest Foundation	
Staff/Guests Present (14)	Members Absent (6)
<b>Terrilyn Miller</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	<b>Jay A. Cory</b> , President and CEO, Phoenix Rescue Mission
<b>Annie Dederick</b> , Community Member	<b>Terry M. Christ</b> , Pastor, Hillsong Phoenix
<b>Laura Bellucci</b> , Chief, Office of Children's Health	<b>Roy T. Dawson</b> , AZ Center for African American Resources
<b>Jessica Stewart</b> , Program Director, MIECHV	<b>George Michael Khalaf</b> , President, Data Orbital
<b>John Raeder</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	<b>Julie K. O'Dell</b> , Statewide Adoption Director, DCS
<b>Maxine Arrington</b> , Award Recipients	<b>Jeffrey James Taylor</b> , Chair of Salvation Army Advisory Board
<b>Mathew Arrington</b> , Award Recipients	
<b>Sam Burba</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
<b>Adrian Jamieson</b> , Community Member	

<b>Molly Dunn</b> , Community Member	
<b>Malcolm Hightower</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
<b>Sue Micetic</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
<b>Marie Khalaf</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
<b>Kelsey Teske</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	

### Call to Order

- **Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, called the Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment meeting to order at 10:08 AM with 21 members and 14 staff/guests present.

### Welcome/Introductions

- **Angela Ducey, Chair**, shared a report on the Governor's meetings in Washington, D.C., where she received more information on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences). She noted that AZ began collecting data in 2014. She and Maria Fuentes are working on a proposal and have a conference call today with Casey Family Programs to request a grant for a statewide ACEs symposium. More will be shared on the proposal during the May council meeting. Mrs. Ducey also mentioned the two things that struck her the most during meetings in DC: 1) She had never heard that ACEs could cause negative adaptations in DNA. 2) She learned of the progressive nature of ACEs throughout the lifespan, but the good news is that effects can be halted or reversed. Washington state has created a self-healing community. They noted that changes and healing took place when the community became involved.
- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, stated that she and Terrilyn Miller toured Maggie's Place to see how they incorporated TIC (trauma-informed care) into the care of their women and families. She encouraged others to visit.
- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, introduced two new council members:
  - **Greg McKay, Director of DCS** – This past January, Casey Family Programs awarded Director McKay its Casey Excellence for Children Award for exceptional leadership. Under Director McKay's leadership, DCS has become a national leader in safely reducing the number of children in foster care. Director McKay introduced a "lean-inspired" management system, which allowed DCS employees to track weekly progress, to quickly shift resources to high-need areas, and to measure results to identify what was working and what was not. As a result, the 16,000 case backlog has been eliminated, the foster care population has dropped 21 percent, and worker caseloads have decreased from 145 reports per worker to 16 reports per worker. Director McKay will also be receiving another National award this April on the National Day of Hope hosted by ChildHelp.
  - **Hon. Judge Colleen McNally** – Judge McNally was selected as a recipient of a 2017 Casey Excellence for Children Award for Leadership for her tireless efforts to work within the court – and working closely with DCS – to safely reduce the number of children in foster care, increasing pathways to permanency, and improving child well-being. Judge McNally also received the 2016 Sally Campbell Award from the Infant Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona. The recognition was for outstanding service and leadership in the field of infant mental health. Judge McNally launched the Dependency Treatment Court in 2012 to help the youngest foster kids by helping their parents. The court looks more like a classroom than a courtroom. This court is part of the Cradle to Crayons program for infants and toddlers in foster care to provide services like parent-child psychotherapy, visit-coaching to help parents learn how to attach to their kids, and trauma therapy for parents. During her career, she served Arizona families as both the presiding family court judge and later as presiding juvenile court judge and chaired the Arizona Supreme Court's Committee on Juvenile Court. She was instrumental in Maricopa Juvenile Court adopting the Kids At Hope philosophy that believes all children are capable of success with no exceptions. Since retirement, she has continued to seek ways to volunteer her time and talent to helping Arizona kids
- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, welcomed everyone, and asked all members to introduce themselves.

## Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **January 18, 2018** meeting minutes.
  - **Paul Mulligan** motioned to accept the **January 18, 2018** minutes.
  - **Vicki Mayo** seconded the motion.
    - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

## Department of Child Safety Update

- **Director Gregory McKay** presented on the progress that DCS is making in safe foster care reduction. He stated that course correction has taken place, but that there is still much work to be done. Director McKay stated that in the decade before 2016, Arizona saw a 90% growth of children in foster care, but in the past 24 months there has been a 21% reduction of the foster care population, which now makes Arizona number one in the country. Director McKay noted that the DCS hotline is now the best in the country, with wait times decreasing from 15 minutes to only 28 seconds. Director McKay stated that Arizona case backlog has decreased from 16,200 to only 178 cases and case workers now have on average 12 to 16 investigative cases each. Director McKay concluded by stating about all that was being done to make sure DCS is operating efficiently and staying under budget.
- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, asked if the efforts to make adoptions quicker related to the repositioning of caseloads?
- **Director McKay** stated that resources were moved around and shifted to improve cover areas that needed more work. Director McKay will send out the roadmap of the plan to continue to better the work process.
- **Paul Mulligan** asked about the culture change happening within DCS.
- **Director McKay** stated that he felt there was a culture change because now he has noticed that case workers seem to feel safer making decisions because there is less fear of being blamed for bad situations. Also, number of removals is not spiking with a crisis. DCS is looking at processes instead of blaming people.
- **Berisha Black** stated that she appreciated all the effort put forth to improve the system. She asked how this would be sustained.
- **Director McKay** shared about CarePortal which fills needs through volunteers through churches that interact directly with families. He sees a 2-tier approach with the next step being mentoring for families. He noted that there are never enough foster homes but that the help from the faith community fills in gaps.
- **Janet Garcia** agreed with Director McKay's statements on congregate care and furthered the discussion of the Family First Act, through which Arizona could potentially lose \$36-40M. She pointed out the need to work toward higher standards for congregate care and noted that Casey would be working to help families reap positive benefits through these changes. She suggested a presentation on the Family First Act.
- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, echoed that these were also her thoughts and agreed this presentation was a good idea. She thanked Director McKay for his presentation.

## MIECHV Funded Home Visiting and Strong Families

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced Laura Bellucci and Jessica Stewart from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) for a presentation on health services to women and children.
- **Laura Bellucci** thanked the council for the opportunity to make this presentation. She stated that there were coordinated home visitation groups in Arizona through funding from MEICV (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting).
- **Jessica Stewart** provided background on the funding from MIECHV, which became available in 2010 and is administered by ADHS. Part of the grant writing included performing a High-risk Communities Needs Assessment throughout the state and targeting these areas. The grant totaled \$21,780,665 for 5 years. Benchmarks were set, in which 4 out of 6 must show improvement each year to continue receiving funds. Evidence-based programs currently in use for home visiting were outlined and outcomes were noted to be used for measures. To implement the new program, community meetings were held in the identified areas. Discussion was facilitated around what services the community already had and what it could use and if it had the capacity for the new services. The community determined the program that would best fit its needs.

Implementation services were coordinated with the community. To date, MEICV has served 1,560 clients and completed 11,617 home visits with 71 home visitors.

- **Ms. Stewart** then introduced Strong Families AZ, a network of home visiting programs which served as a more efficient referral service. The website was developed to streamline the process of getting a home visit. The site also shares success stories and provides a portal for professional development opportunities.
- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, asked if a person could be eligible for more than one program.
- **Ms. Stewart** replied yes, the website shows all the programs for which a person is qualified and they can choose what they think best suits their needs.
- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, inquired about the wait time and capacity in rural areas.
- **Ms. Stewart** stated that some are at capacity and some are not and they try to find the proper group for everyone.
- **Vicki Mayo** asked if there were formal forms for people to fill out.
- **Ms. Stewart** said that some communities had their own forms but there were none at the state level.
- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, thanked Ms. Stewart for her presentation.

### Opioid Epidemic Act

- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, introduced Christina Corieri, a Senior Policy Advisor for the Governor's Office.
- **Christina Corieri** thanked the council for having her today. She opened her presentation by noting that substance abuse, and particularly the opioids, are playing an increasing role in the foster care population. The Governor has taken note of this problem and on June 5, 2017, he declared a state of emergency due to an opioid overdose epidemic. One of the first actions was to make Naloxone available to first responders and pharmacies and to provide Naloxone kits to law enforcement agencies to help reverse overdoses. Deaths from opioids have increased over the past 10 years. In June 2017, the state began tracking data from five categories: suspect opioid deaths; suspect opioid overdoses; neonatal abstinence syndrome; naloxone doses dispensed; and naloxone doses administered. No other state is collecting such in-depth data. Only 50% of those who overdose go to a hospital. Most overdoses happen in homes thus the push for Naloxone in pharmacies for families. A map was produced to show the areas most affected by the opioid epidemic. Deep red indicated high usage - Mojave and Yuma counties. Blind spots were Navajo and Apache counties because of a lack of shared data. In June 2017, the Governor called a special session and signed a bill with the most comprehensive legislation addressing the opioid epidemic in the country. Ms. Corieri then presented the particular areas the bill addressed.
- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, commented on drugs her dog had been given and asked if veterinarians were tracked.
- **Ms. Corieri** stated that there were measures in place for veterinarians to report suspected abuse but animals could not be tracked by the system.
- **Paul Mulligan** questioned how many children were in the foster care system due to opioid abuse.
- **Ms. Corieri** stated that the system was old and did not collect data that specific but an upgrade was in process. She deferred to Director McKay for further clarification.
- **Director McKay** shared that the system was two years into an update and should be completed in the next year and a half. The best information collected currently shows that over 4,000 newborns are exposed to all substance abuse and close to 600 are born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Director McKay estimates that 85% of the foster care population is due to substance abuse.
- **Mrs Ducey, Chair**, requested information from Judge McNally.
- **Judge McNally** stated that the specific drugs abused are not tracked by the court.
- **Marcia Stanton** stated that she was excited to see funding for prevention.

### Sub Committee Reports

- **African American Children and Families Subcommittee**
  - **Roy Dawson, Subcommittee Chair**, was unable to attend.
- **Outreach Subcommittee**

- **Katie O'Dell, Subcommittee Chair**, stated that since the last Council meeting there have been a couple of work group sessions and a subcommittee meeting. Progress has been made on the video idea that they proposed at the last Council meeting. Ms. O'Dell talked about how the plan is to have the video be anywhere from 90 seconds to 2 minutes long and that it will cover what intervention looks like throughout the timeline of the child welfare system. Ms. O'Dell stated that the main goal of the video is to get people passionate about wanting to volunteer.
- The sub-committee's plan is to present the concept and approach of video in May.
- **Partnerships Subcommittee**
  - **Janet Garcia, Subcommittee Chair**, gave an update on the Child Abuse License Plate Program process of going electronic and that there has been continued discussion about how to re-energize this program. Ms. Garcia mentioned that Director Fuentes will be joining the Collective Impact on Child Safety and Well-being as Co-Chair. Ms. Garcia stated that subcommittee is focused on trying to finalize the main agenda for the year and on figuring out the best way to be a resource for Mrs. Ducey's initiative on trauma informed care.
  - **Ms. Garcia** noted that there was a new sub-committee member, Torrie Taj.
- **Prevention Subcommittee**
  - **Vicki Mayo, Subcommittee Chair**, gave a quick update about the Angel Initiative and stated that the plan is to have at least one location in every county participating by December 31, 2018. Ms. Mayo mentioned that they will be looking for new community partnerships and that their focus will be shifting to long term care, for example, how to get the parents employed.
  - The next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2018, from 2-4 PM.
- **Support Subcommittee**
  - **Berisha Black, Subcommittee Chair**, thanked the council members for taking the trauma survey that was sent out. The results showed that 93% of responders said they had some kind of trauma training that they offer. A full report about the results will be given at the next council meeting.

#### Future Meeting Dates

- May 10, 2018
- September 7, 2018
- November 9, 2018

#### Call to the Public

- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, conducted a call to the public. No members of the public addressed the Council.

#### Adjourn

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - **Zora Manjencich** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - **Warren Stewart** seconded the motion.
  - The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Dated 8 March 2018  
Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Terrilyn Miller  
Program Administrator, GOYFF