



## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

### MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2018

10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, Governor's Old Historic Senate Room  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment (Council) was convened on November 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Council.

#### Members Present

Angela Ducey (Chair)	George Michael Khalaf
Kathryn Pidgeon (Co-Chair)	Vicki Mayo
Berisha Black	Julie O'Dell
Lorrie Henderson	Leslie Y. Repogle
Zora Manjencich	Jeffrey James Taylor
Paul S. Mulligan	Torrie Taj
Marcia Stanton	Andrea Stuart
Warren H. Stewart	Katie O'Dell
Richard D. Yarbough	Mark Upton
Roy Thomas Dawson	Terry M. Crist
Darlene Newsom	Jay A. Cory

#### Members Absent

Luke Barnett	James D. Molina
Janet Garcia	

#### Staff Present

Maria Fuentes	Sonya Pierce-Johnson
Terrilyn Miller	Kelsey Teske
John Raeder	

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Kathryn Pidgeon called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM with 22 members present and three members absent.

## **2. OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

Mrs. Angela Ducey explained that the Council is shifting its recognition of community members this year to focus on celebrating families' successes and their ability to overcome barriers/adversity; examples of candidates include: grandparents raising grandchildren, foster parents that stand out for the loving care they are providing, parents that have been reunited with their children and adoptive parents that have gone above and beyond.

Mrs. Ducey recognized that several of the Council member organizations have implemented Trauma Informed Care (TIC). She added the drive to be sensitive to the needs of those who have struggled or lived with the residual effects of trauma continues to grow. TIC is being used to assist providers in their day-to-day interaction with individuals who have experienced traumatic events. Mrs. Ducey informed Council members they would be asked to share what their agencies and organizations are doing, or have plans to do, to implement TIC and that Ms. Berisha Black would provide more information during the Subcommittee Reports.

## **3. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mrs. Angela Ducey welcomed new Council member Marcia Stanton and informed the Council that Kristine Jacober and Christine Arians are no longer able to serve on the Council due to the need to focus on their families at this time. Following Ms. Stanton's introduction each member of the Council and staff introduced themselves.

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2017**

Mrs. Pidgeon requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2017 Council meeting. Mrs. Julie O'Dell moved to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Richard Yarbough seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved without modification.

## **5. GOYFF VISION FOR 2018**

Director of the Governor's Office of Youth Faith and Family (GOYFF), Maria Cristina Fuentes, reported that the office has been restructured based on its two primary roles – Grants Management and Program Development's and Community Engagement. Ms. Fuentes introduced Malcolm Hightower as the GOYFF new Deputy Director. Mr. Hightower will be responsible for overseeing Community Engagement and Deputy Director Tonya Hamilton will continue to oversee Grants Management and Program Development. Ms. Fuentes explained that GOYFF is in the process of expanding its knowledge about TIC and the community efforts to provide services in a trauma sensitive manner. Once the GOYFF has a better understanding of this, it will begin to fill gaps and their support providers, agencies and organizations.

Ms. Fuentes also informed the Council members that the GOYFF is moving toward implementing the Arizona Management System (AMS) matrix, which is designed to promote the strategic development of goals and objectives that will yield positive outcomes. She offered to share the strategies and goals with the Council once they have been identified.

## **6. PRESCHOOL EXPULSION**

Ms. Ginger Ward, Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Alison Steier, Co-Director of Mental Health Services, presented on Southwest Human Development efforts to educate the community about the negative societal impact of preschool expulsion. Ms. Ward provided data on how child-teacher ratio, program length of day, teacher job stress, access to behavioral supports, race, and gender impact preschool expulsion rates. Ms. Ward also

acknowledged data limitations; specifically, existing data focuses on publicly funded preschools and not private preschools; and, existing data does not capture “soft expulsions” which are defined as situations where a child is frequently being sent home until eventually, the parents are told not to bring the child back, or parents stopped taking the child. Citing that Arizona’s expulsion rate is alarming, she acknowledged the 2010 implementation of the First Things First program for being successful in reducing the number of expulsions in the State. Technical Assistance and education on child development have also been helpful.

Dr. Steier presented on the social and developmental needs of children and how preschool expulsion adversely impacts a child’s ability to learn how to appropriately socialize with other children or engage with teachers. For most children, preschool is the first time a child engages in relationships or encounters experiences outside of their family units. They learn about themselves and experience a sense of belonging. She also noted that for children who have particularly difficult childhoods, preschool mitigates what is going on in their homes.

Dr. Steier reported there are 250 children being expelled from preschool every day. These children are 10 times more likely to drop out of school and/or have a negative impression about school. She explained that expulsion does not improve a child’s behavior; on the contrary, behaviors generally increase in severity. Dr. Steier elaborated on the correlation between race, gender and the likelihood that the child will be expelled. African-American and Latino boys are twice as likely to be expelled than Caucasian or Chinese boys, particularly if they meet the “three-B’s” (Boy, Big, and Black). Dr. Steier attributes this disparity to economically poor schools, teachers’ increased stress, and lack of access to quality preschools and services – particularly mental health services. Mental health services have proven helpful in improving student and teacher relationships.

Mrs. Julie O’Dell inquired what can be done to help support families, and Dr. Steier replied that advocating for alternatives to expulsions such as referrals for additional supportive services and educating teachers about childhood development and TIC would be helpful.

Mr. Jeff Taylor asked Dr. Steier if there was any data that links poverty and expulsion rates. Dr. Steier explained that she was not aware of data that deliberately focused on poverty, however, impoverished children are usually in the most precarious situations and teachers tend to focus on children that exhibit undesirable behaviors.

Dr. Steier shared an experiment where preschool teachers observed culturally diverse children sitting around a table and playing with clay. Teachers were asked to identify the child that was presenting with problematic behaviors and the teachers inaccurately selected the African-American boy as needing additional attention. This was an inaccurate response, as none of the children were exhibiting any problematic behaviors that warranted additional attention or direction. Ms. Fuentes added that preschool expulsion is an adult issue and not a child issue. Teachers are not aware that their perception is implicitly bias and when they are made aware of it they are mortified. Decreasing expulsions through legislation has been ineffective, as it shifts the problems to elementary schools.

Mrs. Ducey asked Dr. Steier if childcare providers that accept funding from the Department of Economic Security had to participate in training that addresses bias, TIC and the importance of supporting the child and family. Dr. Steier replied that there are no mandates that these types of trainings occur; however, Southwest Human Development does educate providers about the special needs of children in the foster care system.

Mr. Taylor added that male preschool teachers tend to be popular with children ages 3 to 5. Dr. Steier agreed with his assessment and added that more male preschool staff is needed in preschool settings, as they provide role models for kids who do not have an adult male figure living in their home.

Ms. Leslie Repogle commented that addressing basic supports and needs such as proper hydration are important, and can also affect the child's behavior.

## **7. CASA EXPANSION**

Ms. Robin Pearson and Ms. Justine Grabowski from CASA presented on the CASA expansion. CASA helps foster children who may ordinarily be silent to speak up and express their needs through the use of an advocate in the employment of creative approaches.

CASA will be able to serve twice as many children this year than it did in 2017 due to a \$1.7 million federal grant. Thunderbird Charities has also offered to financially support the CASA's Maricopa County chapter. CASA will be participating in a telethon on January 12, 2018 on Channel 5 and Council members were encouraged to watch it.

CASA will also use their additional funding to build capacity. The organization will be aggressively recruiting volunteers. CASA will also be collaborating with the courts.

Mrs. Ducey asked the presenters if they will continue to provide in person training on how to work with a child's unique needs and was informed that National CASA volunteers will receive online training, but will receive in person training if they need is identified.

## **8. MAGGIES PLACE – TRAUMA INFORMED CARE**

Ms. Julie Carlberg, Chief Programs Officer, presented on Maggie's Place's efforts to provide TIC and Family Reunification. Maggie's Place began educating themselves on TIC in 2015 because they wanted to better meet the needs of the clients that come to them with complex histories and experiences. The average client served by Maggie's Place has an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) score of 7.5. Approximately 61% of clients report living with an opiate dependency. TIC is implemented at all levels of client interaction to ensure the environment is warm and welcoming. Maggie's Place has noticed the more proficient they become with TIC; the more clients came to their agency seeking help.

Maggie's Place provides a wide range of services including but not limited to: case management ; babysitting for parents who have found a job but have not yet been approved for childcare services through DES; 24-hour access to medical and psychiatric providers; social connectedness; and a variety of classes. The agencies focus on meeting the client where they are at in providing wraparound services that incorporate both prevention and intervention has resulted in several families being reunited with her children who were placed in the custody of the Department of Child Safety.

Mrs. Ducey inquired about Maggie's Place TIC training and was informed that the Arizona Behavioral Health Institute provides a two-day training and certification program.

Mr. Terry Crist asked the presenters define what the term "positive exit" means. This term is defined as being able to leave the program to transition to another program or environment.

## **9. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Partnerships Sub-Committee:**

- Ms. Janet Garcia was absent. No update provided.

### **Outreach Sub-Committee:**

- Ms. Katie O'Dell announced that efforts are underway to develop an outreach video to engage Faith Communities across the spectrum of child welfare in Arizona.
- The video would cast a larger vision for the amazing work happening across Arizona and provides various entry points for individuals or groups who want to get involved.

### **Prevention Sub-Committee:**

- Ms. Vicki Mayo had to leave the Council meeting early and was not present to provide an update.

### **African American Children and Families Sub-Committee:**

- Mr. Roy Dawson reported on the seventh Annual African American Conference on Disabilities scheduled for February 2018. He explained the conference is the only one in the U.S. that merges children, race and physical disabilities.
- Mr. Dawson informed the Council members about an organization in Houston, Texas called Predict–Align–Prevent that uses geospatial predictive risk modeling to prevent child abuse. The organization will be presenting their work to the subcommittee.

### **Support Sub-Committee:**

- Ms. Berisha Black informed the Council that she has been promoted to Co-Chair effective January 17, 2018.
- The subcommittee is looking at gaps in training on TIC. The subcommittee will be sending a survey to Council members to learn more about the work they are doing specific to Trauma Informed Care.

## **10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There was no response to the call to the public.

## **11. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Ducey reported that the schedule for 2018 will be emailed to the Council. The Council is scheduled to meet on the following dates:

- March 8, 2018
- May 10, 2018
- September 13, 2018
- November 8, 2018

Mrs. Ducey requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reprogie moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ms. Black. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM with no descending votes.