



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT MINUTES

May 10, 2016
10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment (Council) was convened on May 10, 2016 at 10:06 AM in the 2nd 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)	Paul Mulligan
Christine Arians	Darlene Newsom
Roy Dawson	Julie O'Dell
Belen Gonzalez	Leslie Repogle
Kristine Jacober	Warren Stewart Jr.
Tyler Johnson	Jeffrey Taylor
George Khalaf	Mark Upton
Zora Manjencich	Richard Yarbough
James Molina	

Members Absent

Kathryn A. Pidgeon (Vice-Chair)	Vicki Mayo
Luke Barnett	Dennae Pierre
Jay Cory	Andrea Stuart
Terry Crist	
Janet Garcia	

Staff Present

Debbie Moak	Tori Colgan
Billy Thrall	
John Raeder	
Steve Selover	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Angela Ducey called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Mrs. Ducey welcomed and thanked members and audience for their attendance.

3. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Each member of the council and staff introduced themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Ducey requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Council meeting dated March 15, 2016. Mr. Paul Mulligan moved to approve the minutes as stated. Mr. James Molina seconded. Motion passed with no objections.

5. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM

Mr. John Reader with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) provided an overview of the Child Abuse Prevention License Plate program, which is administered by the GOYFF. Mr. Raeder explained the means of funding for the program and provided examples of agencies and initiatives currently funded by the grant. Mr. Raeder advised that due to the emergence of numerous other license plate charities over the years, the total available funding for this grant has decreased by 30% since 2011. Mr. Raeder stated that additional outreach to stakeholders and public citizens is needed to create greater awareness of the program and the significant assistance it provides to fund child abuse prevention programs. Mr. Raeder asked the Council members to promote the purchase of the specialty plate to increase the amount of funding available.

In response to Mr. Mulligan's question, Mr. Raeder advised that community foundations provide matching funds for the program. Mr. Mulligan recommended that the state should increase efforts to acquire matching funds from additional foundations. Ms. Debbie Moak advised that Council members will be sent a promotional email blast with the intent to forward it to their contact lists.

6. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mrs. Ducey presented a special recognition award to Ms. Sue Baird for her notable work establishing the Care Portal project in Pima County.

7. CARE PORTAL UPDATE FOR MARICOPA COUNTY

Mr. Billy Thrall with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family provided a progress report on the establishment of the Care Portal project in Maricopa County. Mr. Thrall advised that, much due to the success in Pima County where 247 children were enabled to stay in their homes, support and interest towards the Care Portal is continuing to grow in the state. The Care Portal currently exists in ten states and governors from other states are taking notice. Mr. Thrall introduced Ms. Jenica McMaster, who will lead the project's initiation phase in Maricopa County. Mrs. Ducey advised that on May 19, she and Governor Ducey will film a PSA to kick-off the rollout of the Care Portal in Maricopa County.

8. PRESENTATION – SAFE REDUCTIONS WORKGROUP

Judge Colleen McNally, the presiding juvenile court judge from Maricopa County, presented an overview of the Safe Reductions Workgroup. This workgroup was formed as a response to the high numbers of child removals occurring in Arizona. To address this problem, it was determined that the juvenile court needed to increase collaboration with the Department of Child Safety. The three workgroups formed from this initiative include the Judicial

Workgroup, the Attorney Workgroup and the Stakeholder Workgroup. Judge McNally provided additional detail on Stakeholder Workgroup, which convenes with an array of child and family systems providers to improve community support for children and their caretakers.

Mr. Roy Dawson, Council member, asked the question of where data demonstrating the number of removals broken down by zip codes may be available. In response to Mr. Dawson's question, Ms. Moak stated that data demonstrating the number of removals broken down by zip codes is available and that this topic may be put on a future agenda for discussion.

Mrs. Ducey asked Judge McNally to clarify the success rate of the drug court program. In response to Mrs. Ducey's request, Judge McNally advised that 95% of parents who have received graduation from the drug court program have been reunited with their children. This is compared to a 33% reunification rate for parents who only observed a drug court session.

Ms. Christine Arian, Council member, asked if there are efforts from the courts to increase the number of CASAs. Judge McNally stated that it is the intent of the juvenile court to increase efforts to recruit and increase the number of certified Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

9. PRESENTATION – ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION

Ms. Denise Ensdorff, CEO of the Arizona's Children Association (AzCA), provided an overview of the AzCA and its history of providing services to children and families in the state. Ms. Ensdorff provided a brief description of the various prevention and treatment programs offered by the organization, in addition to describing the agency's role in recruiting and training foster parents. Though resources to address the foster care needs of the state are dwindling, Ms. Ensdorff stated that the AzCA will continue to search for the funds necessary to provide much needed services to this population.

Ms. Leslie Repogle, Council member, asked if THRIVE is implemented throughout all of Arizona. Ms. Ensdorff advised that THRIVE, a program that provides mentors for youth aging out of foster care, is currently implemented statewide.

Ms. Belen Gonzalez, Council member, asked if there is a growth of kinship placements statewide. Ms. Ensdorff stated that kinship care is rapidly growing and the portion of kinship providers has increased from 15% to 50% of foster care class attendees.

Ms. Leslie Repogle's question, Ms. Ensdorff stated that while AzCA provides support to kinship families, the funds available for non-licensed kinship care providers are unsatisfactory.

10. PRESENTATION – FAMILY INVOLVEMENT CENTER

Ms. Jane Kallal, executive director of the Family Involvement Center (FIC), presented an overview of the services FIC provides to the community. Ms. Kallal highlighted the organization's role in empowering parents and families to advocate for themselves and become leaders and contributors within their communities. Ms. Kallal also described how the agency assists with the work conducted by the Council's Support Committee.

In response to Ms. Reprogle's question, numerous families that work with the FIC are connected with other agencies, allowing the FIC to collaborate with a multitude of community stakeholders.

Ms. Moak added that the GOYFF is currently developing a website for the Council and asked members to provide Mr. Thrall with their input, describing what they would like to include on the site.

11. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prevention Committee:

- Mr. Jeffrey Taylor provided an update of the Angel pilot program and its utilization by the Phoenix Police Department, Maryvale Precinct to connect eligible substance addicted individuals with treatment services without justice intervention. Mr. Taylor added that Phoenix Vice-Mayor Daniel Valenzuela is interested in promoting the program with neighborhood residents and the committee may request members of the Council to participate.
- The official start date for this program is set for July 1, 2016.
- The committee is looking to partner with Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care to provide services to participants.
- Mr. Taylor announced a new outpatient detoxification treatment program provided by Palo Verde Detox Facility.

Partnerships Committee:

- Ms. Gonzalez reported that the committee is working on finding Care Portal support opportunities in Maricopa County. Mr. Thrall stated that the total amount of funds raised for the Maricopa County Care Portal is approximately \$47,000.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated that members of the committee wish to coordinate activities that recognize and show appreciation for Department of Child Safety employees and their hard work.

Support Committee:

- Ms. Reprogle reported that the committee is working with the Family Involvement Center to conduct focus groups with their clients. The intent is to gather information on successes and barriers families face when trying to access resources.

Outreach Committee:

- Mr. Mulligan reported that the committee is continuing its work with the AZ 127 project, a consortium of religiously affiliated organizations that provides services to foster families.
- Mr. Mulligan recognized SB 1216, which will raise the spending limits for qualified foster care organizations to \$500 for individuals and \$1000 for married couples.
- Mr. Mulligan recognized SB 1217, which allows the charitable tax credit to be applied to the current or preceding taxable year if made by April 15.

12. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the call to the public.

**13. FUTURE MEETING DATES (SEPTEMBER 13 AND NOVEMBER 10) AND
ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Ducey requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reprogle moved to adjourn. Ms. Julie O'Dell seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. with no opposition.

DRAFT