



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT
MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2017
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 November 9, 2017 at 10:00 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)	Roy Thomas Dawson
Kathryn Pidgeon (Co-Chair)	Kristine Jacober
Berisha Black	George Michael Khalaf
Janet Garcia	Vicki Mayo
Lorrie Henderson	Julie O'Dell
Zora Manjencich	Leslie Y. Reprogle
Paul S. Mulligan	Jeffrey James Taylor
Katie O'Dell	TorrieTaj
Warren H. Stewart	Lorrie Henderson
Richard D. Yarbough	

Members Absent

Luke Barnett	Mark Upton
Darlene Newsom	James D. Molina
Jay A. Cory	Andrea Stuart
Terry M. Crist	

Staff Present

Maria Fuentes	Sonya Pierce-Johnson
Samuel Burba	Tonya Hamilton
John Raeder	Alexandra M. O'Hannon
Terrilyn Miller	Kelsey Teske

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Angela Ducey called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM with 19 members present and seven members absent.

2. OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Mrs. Angela Ducey welcomed the new director for the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), Maria Fuentes, to the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment and invited her to share information about her background.

3. GOYFF DIRECTOR

GOYFF Director, Maria Fuentes, thanked the Council for welcoming her and provided information on her educational background and work history including that she has most recently worked for B'nai B'rith International and Casey Family Programs, where she advocated for children in foster care and for the improved well-being of children and families. Ms. Fuentes also worked in President George W. Bush's administration and she has a Master's degree in forensic psychology.

4. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mrs. Ducey welcomed several new members to the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment.

Ms. Barisha Black is the director of the Foster Care Initiative, an agency that provides much needed services to vulnerable families. Ms. Black has also worked for the Casey Foundation in the past.

Ms. Katie O'Dell is the state director of AZ 1.27, which trains local churches on how to best recruit and care for the members of their congregation who are engaged in ministry. Ms. O'Dell reported she has been employed by Hillsong Phoenix for fifteen years.

Ms. Torrie Taj is the chief executive director of Child Crisis AZ, an agency that provides children with a safe environment free from abuse and neglect by creating strong successful families. She described herself as a volunteer at heart and is a Big Sister.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

Mrs. Ducey requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2017 Council meeting. Mrs. Vicki Mayo moved to approve the minutes as drafted. Ms. Janet Garcia seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved without modification.

6. RED RIBBON KICK-OFF TRAINING SESSIONS

Mrs. Terrilyn Miller reported that on October 23, 2017, several educational training sessions were held prior to the Red Ribbon Week Kickoff. Two of the sessions in particular intersect with the Council's focus on child safety and family empowerment.

Dr. Jacob Chavez, the Superintendent of Cartwright Elementary School District in Maryvale, reached out to the GOYFF for training on the topic of substance abuse for teachers and administrators. Samuel Burba co-presented with the Drug Enforcement Agency's assistant special agent in charge, Christopher Scheuler. Mr. Burba and Mr. Scheuler highlighted the opioid epidemic threatening children and families across the state. The goal of the training was to educate and empower schools across the district and state on universal prevention strategies to employ in the classroom. There were approximately 120 participants from the Cartwright School District some of which included parents. Dr. Chavez shared that the Cartwright School District will be using the presentation to continue training their teachers and administrators.

The other training that occurred on that day was on the topic of Motivational Interviewing. Terros Health trainer, Jeremiah Kaplan, educated participants about this non-judgmental

form of engagement that helps individuals make a decision to overcome a personal challenge such as substance abuse.

Fifty-plus participants, many of whom were counselors or part of the growing trauma informed network within the faith community, completed post-presentation surveys and rated the presentation favorably.

7. OVERCOMING ACE'S, CREATING HOPE FOR A HEALTHIER ARIZONA

Ms. Marcia Stanton provided a presentation titled, "Overcoming ACE's, Creating Hope for a Healthier Arizona". Ms. Stanton is the Senior Injury Prevention Specialist at Phoenix Children's Hospital. She also coordinates the hospital's Strong Families Program and is the founder and leader of the Arizona Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Consortium.

Ms. Stanton reported that most children who grow up in the foster care system have a history of four or more ACEs by the time they have contact with the child welfare system, and more than 90 percent have multiple ACEs. Ethnic minority children have a disproportionately higher number of ACEs, averaging five or more. Although ACEs do not explain everything, research shows that individuals with more ACEs experience higher incidents of medical co-morbidity and risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol use.

Cartwright School District is working toward becoming a school district that is trained and administers Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

8. HARVEST OF HOPE FAMILY SERVICES NETWORK

Mr. Warren Stewart Jr. presented on "Harvest of Hope (HOH): Family Services Network". Mr. Stewart reported that the HOH has been instrumental in recruiting more than 450 brown and black families that have become foster care providers, and have placed more than 1440 foster children with loving families. The HOH in Arizona focuses its placement efforts on brown and black children who are in group homes because feedback provided by children who were interviewed indicated they preferred to live with families that look like them.

The HOH Arizona now seeks to train 200 faith-based churches and organizations of color on how to recruit loving foster care families. The HOH will support these institutions by providing the tools they need to each successfully recruit twenty foster care providers. HOH operates using private philanthropic support and does not compete with Arizona agencies or groups for state funds.

9. BRINGING HOPE AND SUPPORT TO ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Mrs. Carol Barger presented on "Bringing Hope and Support to Adoptive Families". Mrs. Barger reported that her adopted grandchildren motivated her to found the Adoptive Families Coalition. Mrs. Barger stated that her grandchildren were adopted through private agencies and when they presented behaviors that warranted extensive psychiatric treatment, they were denied assistance. The Adoptive Families Coalition offers an unprecedented solution through a unique financial sponsorship program to help parents acquire therapeutic care leading to healing and self-regulation for their child's mental and behavioral health challenges.

Mrs. Barger reported that Dr. Erick Gentry has developed a two-hour training on Trauma Informed Care that will be posted to their website once it is complete. Dr. Gentry is the vice-president of the Arizona Trauma Institute.

10. MARICOPA COUNTY NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Mrs. Kathy Pidgeon informed the Council that November is National Adoption Month. Maricopa County will be holding its adoption event thanks to 27 judges and 50 court staff who are donating their Saturday to getting children out of the foster care system and getting them adopted by loving families. The day will include a variety of festivities such as face painting and other child-related activities. The event will begin at 9:00 AM on November 18, 2017, at 3131 W. Dunlap Avenue. Maricopa County leads in the number of adoptions that take place during this event in Arizona.

Mrs. Pidgeon advised the Council that if they knew of families who were contemplating becoming a foster parent or have expressed an interest in adopting a child in the foster care system, they should be encouraged to attend this event so they can see the impact they can have on the life of a child who seeks to have a forever family to love them.

11. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Partnerships Sub-Committee:

- Ms. Janet Garcia reported for the Partnership Sub-committee. Ms. Garcia reported the sub-committee is focused on looking at those families who are bumping up against the system or have the child return to their home, but then receive another DCS referral. The sub-committee has reviewed data from the Morrison Institute. This data is broken down by categories of neglect. The Morrison Institute reviewed actual case files and was able to determine that most of the children were removed by DCS due to dangerous exposure (drugs, children who were left in cars, improper supervision, etc.) and 29% experienced domestic violence.
- The sub-committee is also looking for a date to reconvene to look at the child abuse license plate donation grant program refresh.

Outreach Sub-Committee:

- Mr. Paul Mulligan announced there is a change in leadership for the Outreach Sub-committee. Ms. Katie O'Dell will serve as chair for the sub-committee and Ms. Jenica Mc Master will serve as co-chair. The sub-committee members are working on a presentation for the Council.

Prevention Sub-Committee:

- Mrs. Vicki Mayo announced that the expansion of the Arizona Angel Initiative will include the Scottsdale Police Department. Scottsdale PD will implement the program city-wide at all of their precincts. Anyone can approach any police officer and request assistance.
- Mr. Michael Wisehart will be at the next sub-committee meeting and will present on the childcare subsidy. Studies show that approximately 50% of families who apply for childcare subsidies end up being reported to DCS. The sub-committee has addressed why children are removed from their families (substance abuse) and now they wish to address who the children are that are entering the system. It is speculated that some of the removals may be due to parents leaving their children unattended while they go to work.

African American Children and Families Sub-Committee:

- Mr. Roy Dawson shared that the sub-committee did not meet last month. He has met with GOYFF staff, Mr. Samuel Burba and Ms. Terrilyn Miller, to discuss areas of focus and strategies for moving forward.

Support Sub-Committee:

- Ms. Kris Jacober reminded the Council that there is a role for everyone to play in the ACEs scores and mitigating child trauma. She shared that even her own non-profit organization should look at how they can help to promote mindfulness and healthy relationships.

12. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response to the call to the public.

13. 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:

- January 18, 2018
- March 8, 2018
- May 10, 2018
- September 13, 2018
- November 8, 2018

Mrs. Ducey requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Julie O'Dell moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ms. Janet Garcia. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM with no descending votes.