

OOFY Advisory Board April Meeting

04/07/2026; 9:30-11 am

1. Meeting Begins (Vivian, 9:30-9:35)

- Recap from March Meeting.
- Board vote on March minutes. **PASSED.**

2. Updates from the Foster World (open discussion, 9:35-9:50)

- Board members can share informally any updates relevant to fosters.
- Foster Advocates has graduation cords and stoles for any foster graduate, college or high school. Talk to Elena.
- Charie: shared about a stat- wide service scan in partnership with the Wilder Foundation to identify services across the state.
- Opportunity w/ DHS: Amy Marty from DHS spoke to the board in December about this opportunity. Here is a sign-up form: [Sign up to Review MA Guides for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#). As you may remember, Amy Marty from DHS presented to the Advisory Board in January about an upcoming opportunity to provide feedback on materials being created for Fosters about Medical Assistance. You can see the notes here [January 2026 Minutes_tcm1206-721931.pdf](#). She is looking for up to 5 people from OOFY's board to join this project. She would provide the materials via email for you to review, and schedule a 60 minute/hour long virtual meeting with you to go over your feedback. The available compensation for this opportunity is a \$25 gift card to Walmart, and the expected timeframe for the project is mid-April. If you have questions or are interested, you can contact Amy directly at amy.marty@state.mn.us
- Sage is opening an in-home daycare.
- Elena shared information about upcoming community engagement opportunities with the Black Graduate Collective and Village Arms.
- Vivian shared about the upcoming Bellis retreat on 4/18.
- Kristy: Youthprise was able to double their funding for ETV and that money is officially spent!

3. Board Business (Vivian, 9:50-10:10)

- Gratitude and Concerns: how can the board share gratitude and concerns with other board members? What should the board do if there's a conflict?
- Robin will make a Form to share with the board. The form will have space to share both gratitude and concerns, and ask if the person would like to discuss with the whole board.
- Board application review reminders.
- Reminder about Misty's annual performance review.
- Reminder about the open co-chair role.
- Sage will be Co-chair for May, Nia will be Co-chair for June.

4. Ombuds Report (Misty, 10:10-10:40)

- See handout for Misty's review of all topics covered in Ombuds reports. What else does the board want to know about through those reports?
- Staffing updates
- Staff joining when new members are appointed to share their roles and responsibilities.

5. Legislative Update (10:40-10:50)

- Foster Youth Bill of Rights:
- Requests from legislators: Shorten the document, take out things that are already covered in the law, Address concerns about legislation in other states. In summary: The document is a lot shorter and a little more confusing, but OOFY is still responsible for creating the youth-facing materials! What's next? General Register (considered by the House) Conference Committee.
- OOFY's Statute and Data Access:
- Waiting for hearing in Judiciary Committee. May introduce some amendments.
- Supporting SSI & other bills

6. Public Comment (10:50-10:55)

- None

7. Meeting Close (10:50-11)

Present: Jasmine, Sage, Vivian, Nia, Charie, Sasha, Lucina, Elena, Kristy, Mallory

Summary of Ombuds reports from Fiscal Year 2026 to OOFY Advisory Board

Questions for Advisory Board consideration:

- What content would the Advisory Board like the ombudsperson to report on, on a recurring basis? What items are of interest in the next 6-12 months (i.e. topics at the discretion of the ombudsperson or identified by the Advisory Board)?
- Think about: What information do you feel you need to know to be able to review the Ombudsperson's performance?
- What format and level of detail is most helpful?
- Continue monthly meetings or move to every/other month?

More detail on all reports can be found on OOFY's [Advisory Board page on website](#)

July 2025 – meeting canceled based on decision from the board

August 2025 - OOFY staff joined to give reports on different areas (Overview of intake process, overview of summer outreach and initial lessons learned, current strategy for creating more FY materials, overview of individual investigation process and example of issues being reviewed, Overview of OOFY complaint data April -June 2025) Deeper dive into OOFY's first annual report which was previously previewed for the board

September 2025 – meeting canceled due to lack of availability of Advisory Board members

October 2025 – Project highlights and Overview of OOFY Year 2 priorities, Athena from Better World Partners joined meeting for continued work on OOFY values

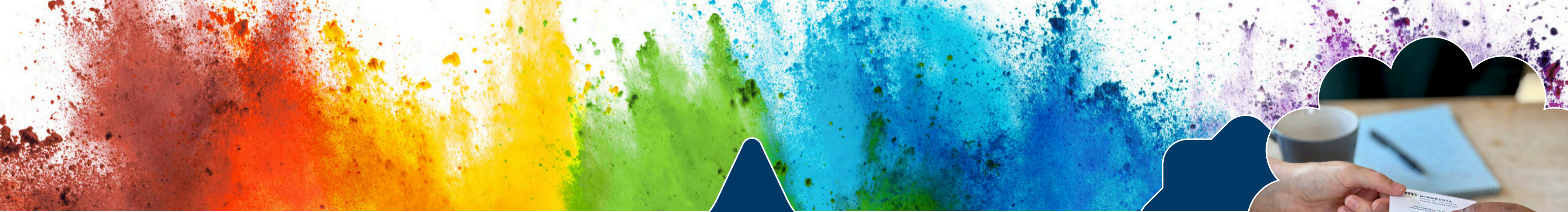
November 2025 – OOFY Legislative Priorities overview – FBOR and OOFY statutory bill

December 2025 – Policies and Practices in OOFY's investigations, status updates on DCYF actions in response to Sibling Issue Report, share back of OOFY Agency values for Advisory Board consideration, Overview of recommendations from ChildTrends EFC Recommendations report

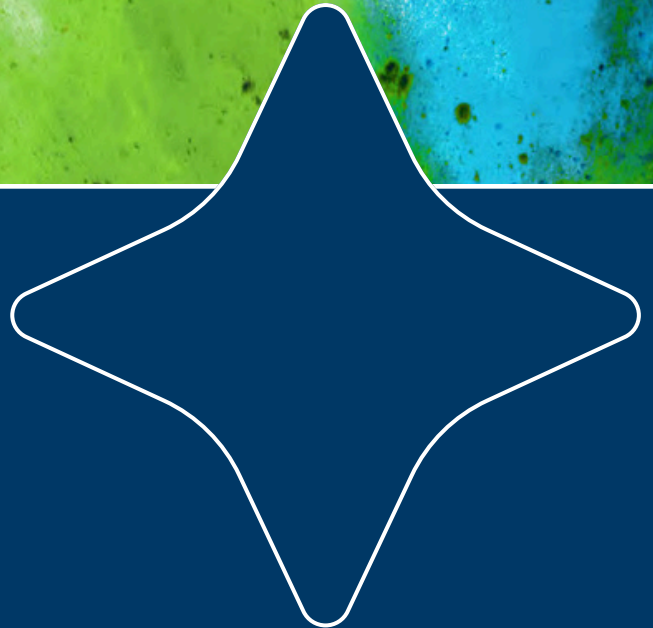
January 2026 - Invited guest: Amy Marty DHS (overview of MA for FFY, working on Foster-specific materials and opportunity for board to participate), requested vote on final versions of OOFY agency value, Overview of OOFY's different types of reports – public vs non-public/individual vs systemic/ annual/other reports, Update on FBOR efforts and ways that advisory board could support

February 2026 Review of updated/new OOFY materials for foster youth, Overview of OOFY data – public vs private vs confidential

March 2026 - Overview of OOFY internal review from recent OLA report on MN Ombudsperson office and items of interest for the Advisory Board to consider



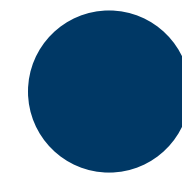
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OFFICE OF THE FOSTER
YOUTH OMBUDSPERSON



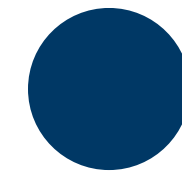
Advisory Board Meeting Ombuds Report

April 7, 2026



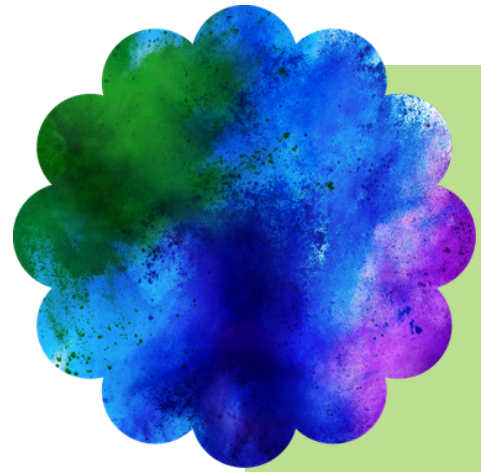


Ombuds Report

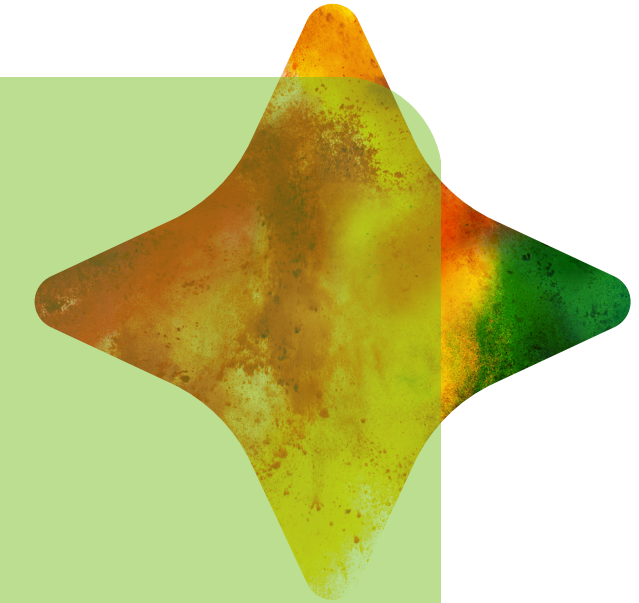


Legislative Update

OOFY Staffing updates




Help us wish them well!



- Staff Departure - Ziigwan
- Upcoming leave - Hannah



Questions for the Advisory Board

- What content to report on, on a recurring basis (monthly, quarterly, annually)?
 - What items are of interest in the next 6-12 months (Ombuds choose or Advisory Board choose)?
 - What information do you need to be able to review performance?
 - Continue to meet monthly or move to every other month?
- 



After the Children & Families hearing for FYBOR!

Legislative Updates

- Foster Youth Bill of Rights
- OOFY's statute & data access
- Supporting SSI & other bills



FYBOR

- Requests from legislators:
 - Shorten the document
 - Take out things that are already covered in the law
 - Address concerns about legislation in other states
- **In summary:**
 - The document is a lot shorter and a little more confusing, but OOFY is still responsible for creating the youth-facing materials!
- What's next?
 - General Register (considered by the House)
 - Conference Committee



Other Updates

- OOFY's statute & data access
 - Waiting for hearing in Judiciary Committee
 - May introduce some amendments
- Supporting other bills
 - Social security benefits

