

Minutes: OOFY Board December Meeting

12/2/2025, Virtual

1. Circle w/ Jasmine (9-9:30, closed)

2. Welcome (9:30)

3. Updates from the Foster World (9:30-9:40)

- Foster Youth Day on the Hill is highlighting 2 legislative priorities: increasing the funding for Independent Living Skills services, increasing the age of EFC to 23.

4. Board Business (9:40-10:05)

- Circle Keeping/Team Building: Co-chairs suggest a rotating schedule of circle keepers.
 - Elena is interested in being on the circle keeping rotation.
 - **Anyone else interested in this opportunity reach out to Robin.**
- Board Appointments Update: The GO will not make their appointments until May 2026, so OOFY will have a priority deadline for applicants at the end of March 2026.
- Board Co-Chair Elections:
 - Vivian Dudley is elected OOFY Co-Chair.
 - Jasmine would be ok staying in the role if no one else wants to but wants to leave some time for people to think about it.
 - Sasha thinks she's too new, but would be interested next year.
 - Misty reminds of commitments of co chairs: planning the agenda and facilitating meetings, one extra meeting a month to plan.
 - Revisit in January.
- Scheduling Poll results: Co-chairs suggest eliminating evening meetings, rotating between morning and afternoon. Same week, day, and # of in person meetings.
 - Robin will make these scheduling changes.

5. Ombuds Report: Policies and Practices in OOFY Investigations (10:05-10:45)

- Policies and Practices in OOFY Investigations (slides 1-4)
- Misty shared [practice guides](#). Specifically review comfort calls.
- Lacey shares this link: [Child protection, foster care, adoption / Minnesota Department of Human Services](#).
- Examples from OOFY's sibling issue report (slide 5):
- Sibling BOR statute
- Minnesota Commissioner's Form v. Illinois example of Sibling Rights brochure.
- [Practice Guide for Maintaining Family Connections for Children in Foster Care \(April 2025\)](#)
- "HelpText" for completing Out-of-Home Placement Plans
- Influencing Policy and Practice through OOFY Recommendations (slide 6): Misty reviews OOFY's recommendations to DCYF, DCYF's response, and the current status of the recommendations.
- Elena: Robyn/Misty, is it possible to send out a version of the slide deck after the meeting with the full links to the practice slide? The PDF doesn't have live links. Yes!
- Nia: do we know what counties were involved in the data collection? Would it be possible to? I know our goal was to get a general idea, but I think that extra data could be helpful? Is it a widespread number of counties?
- Hannah will work on pulling the data, but overall message is it is widespread. Misty outlines who we made recommendations to.
- Misty reviews the table of our recommendations, DCYF response, current status.
- Elena: the practice guides will go to the counties? Were there any recommendations that could involve Fosters and spreading the word through Fosters? How do Fosters hear from their peers about why this is important and what their rights are?
- Misty: Noted, thinking about how we can influence that. Power of Advisory Board, think about what you can do within your sphere of influence.
- OOFY Agency Values (slides 7-8):
- We've worked with Athena at BWP to get the bones of the values. OOFY staff worked on this too. The values are now on the [OOFY website](#)!
- EFC Research Project (slide 9): Experiences in Minnesota's Extended Foster Care Program
- Three Takeaways:
- Start talking about extended foster care early, often, and through multiple channels.
- Streamline enrollment and service delivery so Fosters can focus on their education, career, and self-sufficiency goals.
- Support Fosters' journey to self-sufficiency through supportive, nonjudgmental conversations that prepare Fosters for life as young adults.

6. Public Comment (10:45-10:50)

7. Meeting Close

Present: Lacey, Jasmine, Nia, Elena, Sasha, Sage, Lucina, MJ

Staff: Robin, Misty, Hannah

Guests: Nicolas Vogel, DCYF.

Minutes compiled by Robin Purman