

February 2026 Board Minutes

02/03/2026

Circle w/ Vivian (9-9:30)

- Closed meeting.

Public Meeting Begins (9:30)

1. **January Meeting Recap (Vivian, 9:30-9:35):**
2. **Updates from the Foster World (9:35-9:45):** Board members can share informally any updates relevant to Fosters.
 - [Foster Youth Day on the Hill](#): will be held on 3/2/26, rally. Registration is open. 9-12 is the youth summit, you need to be a youth (or with a youth) to attend. Youths should contact their social workers; state funds are available to support. Then rally and march to the capitol, anyone can join for that portion.
 - Vivian is interested in volunteering; Lacey says reach out to her.
 - Misty: Lacey or Sasha - will there be tabling again this year for orgs/agencies? Sasha: yes!
 - Lacey is going to contact the tabling committee for OOFY and EFC (Kristy).
 - Lacey says some group homes are bringing their youths.
 - Misty: I appreciate the info! If you have other info especially for social media that OOFY can share out, please pass that along.
 - Kristy: Shares about Youthprise's postsecondary funding success, they have 122 young people receiving ETV, they have been onboarded and are receiving funds.
 - Vivian knows someone with a FIG question, Kristy says they can contact her and help, could help liaise with the office of higher ed. Kristy says: For ETV: gabby@youthprise.org. My email address is kristy@youthprise.org.
 - Charie asks if there are funds left, Kristy says a smidge. There are some differences if you're going to a non-FIG school, you apply in a different pool. Here's how to apply: <https://dcyf.mn.gov/individuals-and-families/youth-services/education-and-training-voucher-program>.
 - Sasha: YMCA YLC created materials to help Fosters get to know and feel comfortable around new foster parents. She shares the PDFs for those (prek, elementary, middle and high school). This video also: [Meet Me Guide Youth Video](#).
 - MJ shares about [Student Parent Support Initiative | MN Office of Higher Education](#).

- **Board Business (9:45-10:15):**

- Reminder: there is still an open Co-Chair spot! It could be just for a few months, you don't have to commit to the whole year.
- Reminder: April 7 meeting will be in person from 9-11, location TBD. Lunch and social time afterwards from 11-12. Nia needs a hotel for this meeting.
- Lucina asks about safety protocol for the in-person meeting in terms of federal agents. Considerations about what hotels are being used, some are more visible than others. OOFY will loop back to this question.
- Vivian is ok keeping it on Zoom. We can be mindful of location.
- Misty: reminder that the board chose the co-chair model and Vivian should have that support.
- Board Charter: Gratitude and Concerns
- Mallory suggests we address this in an in-person meeting. Lucina agrees. They decide yes.
- Feedback on how last month went: Sasha say it's new. We can revisit next month.
- Currently the contact info shared is email. Is the board okay to share phone numbers?
- Put in the chat: how you would like to be contacted by a board caretaker: call, text, email.
- Where do you want to keep the data from caretakers? OOFY cannot share documents outside of the state system.
- If a member misses a meeting, board caretakers reach out. If they miss another meeting, Vivian will reach out. If they miss a third, OOFY staff will communicate.

- **Ombuds Report (Deputy Ombudsperson Planalp, 10:15-10:45)**

- Updating OOFY Materials: [A Place for Foster Youth to Be Heard tcm1206-721992.pdf](#) is our newest resource. Slide 5 is an example of something a Foster could send by mail to us, our statute protects mail communication explicitly.
- All about data: public, private, and confidential data. Most OOFY cases include private and confidential data. [Data Practices Office / Data Practices Office.](#)

- **Meeting Close**

Present: Vivian, Nia, Charie, Lacey, MJ, Sasha, Lucina, Kristy, Mallory

Guests: Nicolas Vogel, Kaja Just

Minutes prepared by Robin Purman