

January Minutes

01/06/2026, 3-5 pm

1. Circle (3-3:30, Elena)

2. Public Meeting Begins (3:30-3:35, Vivian)

3. Updates from the Foster World (3:35-3:45): Board members can share informally any updates relevant to Fosters.

- Kristy: update on ETV. They did get a boost of federal funding, double the amount they usually get, 30 new people were just awarded grants. There is still funding, so if you know people interested in going back to school, Youthrise can support them.
- Charie just left Ramsey County, is working for Perris Hill on community partnerships.
- Elena: FA is having their next legislative lunch and learn in Feb. She will share details.
- Foster Club announced their All Star Internship. Sasha: It's a really cool opportunity for former foster youth to connect with others across the country. It is a six-week program with one week in Oregon, all expenses paid for. I did it last year and I loved it! If you have other questions let me know, I'd be happy to answer them! Link: <https://www.fosterclub.com/allstar-internship>.
- Nia: connection for advocacy, internship with connections to paid opportunities. National opportunities.
- Lucina has a question for Kristy: If a person is receiving FIG can they also apply for ETV. Kristy: maybe but they can't go over the total cost of attending. If someone is just going back to school or in grad school this would be a good opportunity. Normally they prioritize people getting their first degree. Kristy says this money has to be gone by October so if they got their bills before then good. Anyone going to a FIG eligible school, ETV eligibility is already set.
- In chat from Kristy: Also, I forgot to share that there are many leaders in the community to start organizing for SOUL Families. We are in process of setting meetings: <https://form.jotform.com/253485991104058>
- Here's the ETV website for the state of MN: <https://dcyf.mn.gov/individuals-and-families/youth-services/education-and-training-voucher-program>
- Foster Advocates legislative lunch and learn: <https://bit.ly/LLL212>
- And here's info about the ETV Boost: https://www.canva.com/design/DAG4mkWEZ2c/v2lhfO8Gcb_uUBNFXbXguw/view?utm_conte

[nt=DAG4mkWEZ2c&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h8168c4124c](https://www.mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/ma-for-youth-formerly-in-foster-care.jsp)

4. Overview on Medical Assistance for Former Foster Youth webpage (3:45-3:55)

- Amy Marty, Medicaid Child Welfare Policy Liaison | Health Care Eligibility and Access (HCEA) from DHS. Amy will provide overview of updates in progress for the Medical Assistance for Former Foster Youth webpage and creating other written materials for Fosters.
- Amy is sharing an opportunity to review and provide feedback on public facing materials.
- Public Content: 1) Guides for youth. One geared towards 18+ (EFC, former fosters); Guide for those under 18, aging out or transitioning out of placement. 2) public webpage “the basics of eligibility for former foster care youth.” Guides are very detailed; webpage is more basic.
- They want to create guides for professionals but also participants, caregivers, youth. It is a huge gap currently. They want to make sure there’s information around transition periods, there is an elevated risk in them falling off healthcare coverage.
- They will also be looking at the youth leadership councils.
- Hand out the documents, have people review ahead of time on their own time. Invite participants to a conversation (“interview”) so they can ask clarifying questions etc. Structured conversation, not collecting stories or personal information. Looking at the content of the docs, understandability, use this to inform revisions. They had a round of youth review about a year ago, this new content is based on that.
- Time + effort: provide documents ahead of time, each guide is 10 pages ish, webpage is already online. Conversation would be about an hour.
- <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/ma-for-youth-formerly-in-foster-care.jsp>
- Amy highlights section for non-citizen youth. They updated the webpage based on our feedback to add a condensed version of the non-citizen info immediately.
- Sasha: what are the requirements to share your perspective? Amy: they’re looking for a diverse group, youth, those who have been in placement, those who have aged out, advocates. No age requirement. They want to make sure youth voice. Sasha asks about videos, Amy says they’re interested in it.
- Amy’s email: amy.marty@state.mn.us

5. Board Business (3:55-4:15, Vivian)

- Board Caretaker(s): The co-chair proposal: there will be 2 designated board caretakers. After each meeting, Robin will contact the caretakers with a list of members who missed the last meeting. Caretakers will determine which member they will each contact.
- Cherie will be one caretaker, Sasha the other.
- Circle:
 - Co-chair proposal: anyone interested in leading circle can volunteer on a month-by-month basis.
- Who wants to lead circle in February? No volunteers yet.
- Item for vote: Accept the OOFY agency values for Advisory Board use, to incorporate in the next version of board charter/bylaws. Misty shares overview.
- Vote: Elena motions, Nia seconds: vote passes all in favor.

6. Ombuds Report (4:15-4:40, Misty)

- OOFY publishes a variety of reports to promote transparency and public awareness for issues impacting youth in foster care - in line with values "Say What's True" and "We fix the root, not just the branches"
- Investigative Reports shared publicly for several reasons: 1) The identified issues are serious, egregious, recurrent, or systemic. 2) The identified issues have not received much attention from others. 3) There may be another reason the broader public should be informed.
- Agencies have opportunity to respond before publishing. OOFY consults with the governor's office prior to publishing
- The Imprint has focused articles on our two most recent investigative reports (sibling issue report and last F+R report). Reports can build off of one another.
- Follow-up efforts are key - sharing with positions/groups that have potential to impact and avoiding unintentional harm ("we work with care").
- Bill of Rights: We currently have over 50 sign-ons to the FYBOR LOS, including 11 organizations. Additionally, we have separate LOS from MIAC and ADAYC. About 40% of sign-ons are from Fosters.
- Request for Advisory Board: write letters of support, share out information in your networks.
- Sasha asked if youth give consent to be in reports. Cherie also has the question.
- Lucina: young people in facilities, raised concerns about retaliation. OOFY is going to see more and more of these situations pop up, concerns about solitary confinement as retaliation. Conversation with Imprint as well, around those still in care and retaliation could come from those still providing services. Vivian: if there is retaliation, how do we work with that youth? Address the retaliation?
- Sage: curious if there's a current implementation with follow ups with clients.
- Misty takes note of privacy/notification concerns and will loop back with the board.

7. Public Comment (4:40-4:45) NONE

8. Meeting Close (4:45-5, Vivian)

Attendance:

Elena, Charie, Kristy, Lucina, Nia, Vivian, Sage, Lacey

Robin, Misty