

OOFY Advisory Board Minutes (March 2026)

03/03/2026

1. Circle w/ Vivian (3-3:30)

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

- Recap from February meeting.
- Board vote on accepting last month's minutes. Motion passes, minutes accepted.

3. Updates from the Foster World (open discussion, 3:35-3:45)

- Board members can share informally any updates relevant to Fosters.
- Sasha: Reflection on Foster Child Youth Day on the Hill (FCYDH): legislators came to speak, rally on the rotunda. Vivian: some interest in new board members from FCYDH.
- Elena: Opportunities from FA: [Empower and Thrive: Foster Resource Fair | Minneapolis Community & Technical College; Foster Advocates Pronoun Guide — Foster Advocates;
https://www.fosteradvocates.org/immigrationkyr.](#)
- <https://imprintnews.org/youth-voice/youth-sound-off-foster-youth-speak-out-on-the-effects-of-ices-attacks-in-minnesota/271458>
- [Foster Adopt Minnesota](#): Training through Foster Adopt MN geared towards Foster Parents, Caregivers and Professionals working with non-citizen youth, confirmed for 3/25/26.

4. Report of the Ombudsperson (Misty, 3:45-4:25)

- OOFY has reviewed the Program Evaluation Report completed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) for the Office of Ombudsperson for Families (OBFF). OOFY has completed an internal review of recommendations that may be important for our agency and the Advisory Board to consider.

- There is a 2-page summary report ([Office of Ombudsperson for Families - Summary - Released January 29, 2026](#)) or if you have more time and interest, the full report has more detail [Office of Ombudsperson for Families - Program Evaluation - Released January 29, 2026](#). The presentation of the report to the Legislative Audit Commission (LAC) can be found here: [LAC Minutes](#).
- Slide 3: The Legislative Audit Commission (LAC) is a bi-partisan commission with 6 members from the House of Representatives and 6 from the Senate, equally divided between the majority and minority parties. They select topics for the OLA Program Evaluation Division to review. The OLA presents their evaluation reports to the LAC.
- Slide 4: The OLA selected the OBFF for a Program Evaluation and presented their report to the LAC in January 2026.
- Slide 5: The OLA goes through a process to decide what programs they will evaluate, and once decided, they go through a several month audit process following established standards, and then they report to the LAC. Examples of other programs they have recently reviewed include DHS: Behavioral Health Administration grants, DNR Outdoor Heritage Fund Grants, and Minnesota State: Faculty Payroll. Meetings of the LAC are recorded: You can see more info here: [LAC Minutes](#). As a recently formed Ombudsperson office in Minnesota, OOFY staff reviewed the report and presentation through this lens: what can OOFY and our Advisory Board learn from the report?
- Slide 6: The report reviewed several areas of OBFF's programs, organizational structure, role of their community boards, and reporting. Resulted in recommendations in 3 areas: Role in Child Protection, Oversight and Accountability, and Complaint Handling. OOFY completed an internal review based on the recommendations of the OLA to OBFF.
- Slide 7: OOFY had already identified areas that need attention in our enabling statute, and a bill has been introduced to address them. Hannah provided an overview of this to the Advisory Board at a recent meeting.
- Slide 8: Requirements in OOFY statute
- 1. shall provide outreach, resources, and assistance to youth in foster care by directly engaging with youth in residential treatment facilities, group homes, and family foster homes.
- 2. After completing the investigation of a complaint, the ombudsperson shall inform the complainant, the agency, and any person who is the subject of the investigation of the action taken.
- 3. If the ombudsperson believes that an action upon which a valid complaint is founded had a statutory basis, and that the statute produced results or effects that were unfair or otherwise objectionable, the ombudsperson shall bring to the attention of the governor and the legislature the ombudsperson's view concerning desirable statutory change.
- 4. the ombudsperson shall, at the end of each biennium, report to the governor and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child welfare and state government concerning the exercise of the ombudsperson's functions during the preceding biennium

- 5. Before finalizing a conclusion or recommendation that expressly or implicitly criticizes an agency, facility, program, or any person, the ombudsperson shall consult with the governor and the agency, facility, program, or person concerning the conclusion or recommendation.
- 6. When sending a conclusion or recommendation to the governor that is adverse to an agency, facility, program, or any person, the ombudsperson shall include any statement of reasonable length made by that agency, facility, program, or person in defense or mitigation of the office's conclusion or recommendation.
- Slide 9: OOFY has prioritized this before we opened in May 2024 and since then. OOFY Staff Manual and Desk Guide. We have sought and received examples of policies and procedures from many other ombuds offices in Minnesota and across the US. We have a very strong draft that all OOFY staff have reviewed and provided input on, it is a priority project for HP.
- Slide 10: OOFY prioritized this in the creation of our office and researched numerous options before selecting a vendor that seemed to meet our needs and be cost effective. Our case management system launched soon after the office opened. We share licensing costs with OAIF while maintaining a fully separate system to ensure protection of data between our agencies. Quickbase has overall functioned well for OOFY and meets our needs for documentation and reporting. We continue to refine some aspects of the system.
- Slide 11: OOFY's Sibling Issue Report resulted from analysis of our complaint data and identification of trends that needed more attention. We are expected to bring the ombudsperson's view concerning desirable statutory change, and have done so through the introduction of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, as well as testimony and letters of support on other bills that impact foster youth's rights, care, safety, and placement.
- Slide 13: Nothing in OOFY statute about minimum frequency of board meetings. The board shall evaluate the foster youth ombudsperson's effectiveness through regular meetings." For others boards and councils, quarterly seems to be most typical. MNQT has a full board meeting every/other month and an executive committee meeting e/o month. Advisory Board vote to approve meeting minutes from last meeting. Add ombuds report and other materials to meeting minutes posted on OOFY website
- Slide 14: "make recommendations to the foster youth ombudsperson and staff while continuously overseeing the foster youth ombudsperson's work." "The board shall evaluate the foster youth ombudsperson's effectiveness through regular meetings." OOFY staff vs Advisory Board - remember this is your meeting. Advisory Board decides the agenda, currently through a collaborative meeting between chair, Misty, and Robin. I am here to report to you, take in your feedback, questions, and guidance! And to be evaluated by you. Robin is here as a support and a note-taker - but you can also designate a board member to take notes.

5. Board Business (4:25-4:55)

- **Board Appointments** (Robin): Applications are open for open seats on the OOFY Advisory Board. We need your help with recruitment! Please share widely with your networks!
 - o [Board Membership / Office of Ombuds for Foster Youth - State of Minnesota](#): has all the information about applying.
 - o Anyone applying for a Youth seat only has to complete [this form](#) to apply.
 - o The deadline for applications is 3/31/26. OOFY will share our recommendations with the Governor's Office by early May. They GO says they will appoint in May.
- The board needs to review applications during the month of April.
- Sasha and Charie will review applications.
- **Preparing for Misty's Performance Review** (Misty):
 - o State of MN Human Resources provided a new template to review agency leaders, which the Advisory Board can choose to use" [Annual Employee Performance Review](#).
 - o Overview of last year's process.
- Who is interested in working on the Performance Review? Kristy will share what she has from last year. Lacey can help! Lucina. Vivian.
- **Board Caretakers** (Sasha and Charie):
 - o Reflection: What is working? What should be changed?
 - o Fully supporting people, what's the appropriate way to share back with the group? Reaching back into our village!
- Elena suggests sharing back if it's a trend, otherwise no specifics.
- **In Person Meeting 4/7/26** (Robin):
 - o The Wilder Foundation in Saint Paul, 2510 Frogtown Conference Room.
 - o 9-11 am, lunch and social time provided afterwards from 11-12.
 - o This is a regular board meeting, not an extended retreat.
 - o The board decided to discuss the board charter item Gratitude and Concerns during the in-person meeting.
 - o Please take this [survey during the meeting](#).
- **There is still a Co-Chair vacancy** (Vivian): There are eight months of meetings left in the Co-Chair term. **Who can step into this role, even for a few of those months?**

6. Public Comment (4:55-5)

- *None.*

7. Meeting Close (5:00)

Present: Jasmine, Sage, Vivian, Charie, Lacey, Sasha, Lucina, Elena, Kristy.

OOFY Staff: Misty, Robin

Minutes prepared by Robin Purman