

May 2026 Agenda

05/05/2026

Co-chairs: Vivian Dudley and Sage Desai

1. Circle (closed to the public; 3-3:30, led by Sage)

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

- Recap of last month's minutes.

3. Amy Marty, DHS (3:35-3:45)

- Reminder of paid opportunity to review MA materials for Fosters.
- 2 slots left, looking for 2 more participants.
- You can sign up here: [Sign up to Review MA Guides for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)
- Low pressure conversation, you don't have to study the materials, just share your opinions.

4. Updates from the Foster World (open discussion, 3:45-3:55)

- Laci: Tomorrow's Leaders Today registration is open! Ages 16-21. [TLT Minnesota](#).
- Vivian: It's Foster Care Awareness Month.
- Misty: Soon OOFY will be sharing out a flyer for an opportunity for Fosters. Complete a survey to provide input on how to improve legal representation for young people. There will be 2 listening sessions.
- Sasha: The YLCs are fixing audio for the Meet Me videos, they might be pushed to next month.
- Sage asks about interview review panel. Misty shares that we had wanted board representation on the interview. We were notified that we have applicants from the [Connect 700 program](#). Those applicants get priority to be considered for the role, which changes the interview process. If one of them doesn't move forward in the process, we would want board input again.

5. Board Business (co-chairs and OOFY staff, 3:55-4:15)

- Schedule update: we will not have an August meeting due to OOFY staff absences.
- Please take [this poll](#) to help us determine July and September meetings.

- Advisory Board Poll: the board has meetings scheduled through September. Please [take this poll](#) to help us schedule the next year of meetings.

6. Report of the Ombudsperson (Misty, 4:15-4:45)

- Mid-Year Data Review: old versus new; mid-year versus quarterly.
- Charie asks about supporting the complainants and their families. Misty reiterates OOFY scope of being there to support Fosters. We could use board feedback on resource lists.
- Kristy: Who is the audience of the report? For foster youth? Discussion on sharing strengthening trust through reporting.
- Sibling Issue Report update: see slide 6 for updated info on DCYF's action re: OOFY's sibling issue report recommendations.
- Vivian: are there trauma informed and foster informed sibling rights trainings? Lacey says there's no formal training about siblings and trauma informed care. There are options for outside foundations training.
- Legislative Update:
- EFC opt out versus opt in had financial concerns, that had to be taken out of the bill. EFC part was a piece of the BOR. Counties and DCYF said the financial strain made it impossible. Let's circle back to this, next year is a budget session.
- These links will be discussed during the presentation:
 - o [DHS-8068-ENG \(Foster Care Sibling Bill of Rights\)](#)
 - o [Foster Care Sibling Bill of Rights: Responsible social services agency requirements and instructions](#)
 - o [DCYF Bulletin 26-68-05 Foster Care Sibling Bill of Rights](#)

7. Public Comment (4:45-4:50)

- None

8. Meeting Ends (4:50-5)

Present: Sage, Vivian, Charie, Lacey, Mari, Sasha, Kristy.

Staff: Misty, Robin.

Minutes prepared by Robin Purman

Advisory Board Meeting Ombuds Report

May 5, 2026





- Mid-Year Data Review
- Sibling Issue Report update
- Legislative Update

OLD

VS

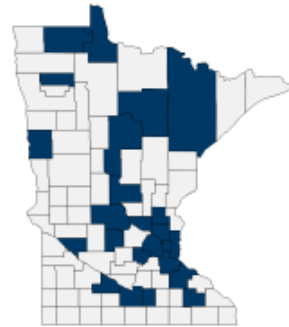
NEW



Minnesota's Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson QUARTERLY REPORT (April-June 2025)

Established in May 2024, the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson (OOFY) handles complaints from anyone, **prioritizing concerns from young people** about their **rights, care, safety, and placement** in Minnesota foster care, including youth in extended foster care and those who have recently aged out of care.

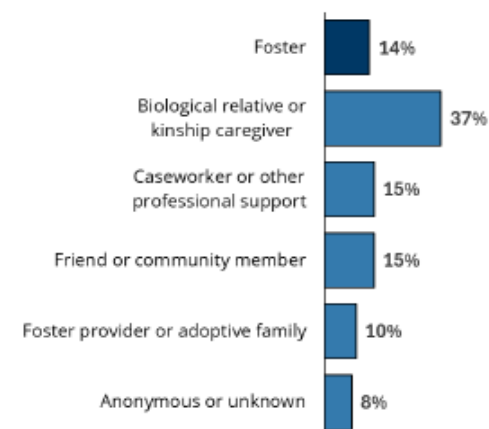
Reviewed
71
concerns



From
25
counties*

OOFY had direct contact with **Fosters**** in 39 percent of the cases (15 out of 38) that involved a specific person. The remaining 33 cases were related to general consultations, policy questions, an anonymous concern, and other non-person-specific matters.

People who submitted concerns to OOFY included:



* No county information was available for 14 reported concerns. Two additional cases originated from two separate Tribal nations, one from each nation.

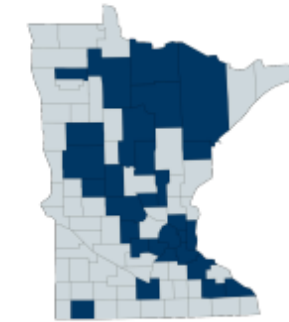
** OOFY uses the term "Foster," following the example of those with lived experience, to refer to people with experience in foster care, no matter their age or whether they reunited with family, were adopted, or aged out of foster care.

 **MINNESOTA**
OFFICE OF THE FOSTER
YOUTH OMBUDSPERSON

MID-YEAR DATA REPORT (July-December 2025)

The Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson (OOFY) listens to concerns from anyone, prioritizing concerns from young people about their rights, care, safety, and placement in **Minnesota foster care**.

Reviewed
113
concerns



From
31
counties*

OOFY had direct contact with **Fosters**** in 60 percent of the cases (34 out of 56) that involved a specific foster youth. The remaining 57 cases were related to general consultations, policy questions, anonymous concerns, and other matters.

From July to December 2025:

1 out of 3 people who contacted OOFY are biological relatives of foster youth

About 20 cases required more substantial investigation or coordination than what is typical.

Nearly 20% of the concerns OOFY heard were related to a lack of family or sibling contact.

About 2 out of 3 people who shared their race or ethnicity identified as people of color.

Another 20% of the concerns were about services that a foster youth should receive.

During this time, OOFY publicly released one Investigative Report and one Issue Report.

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**MID-YEAR DATA
REPORT**

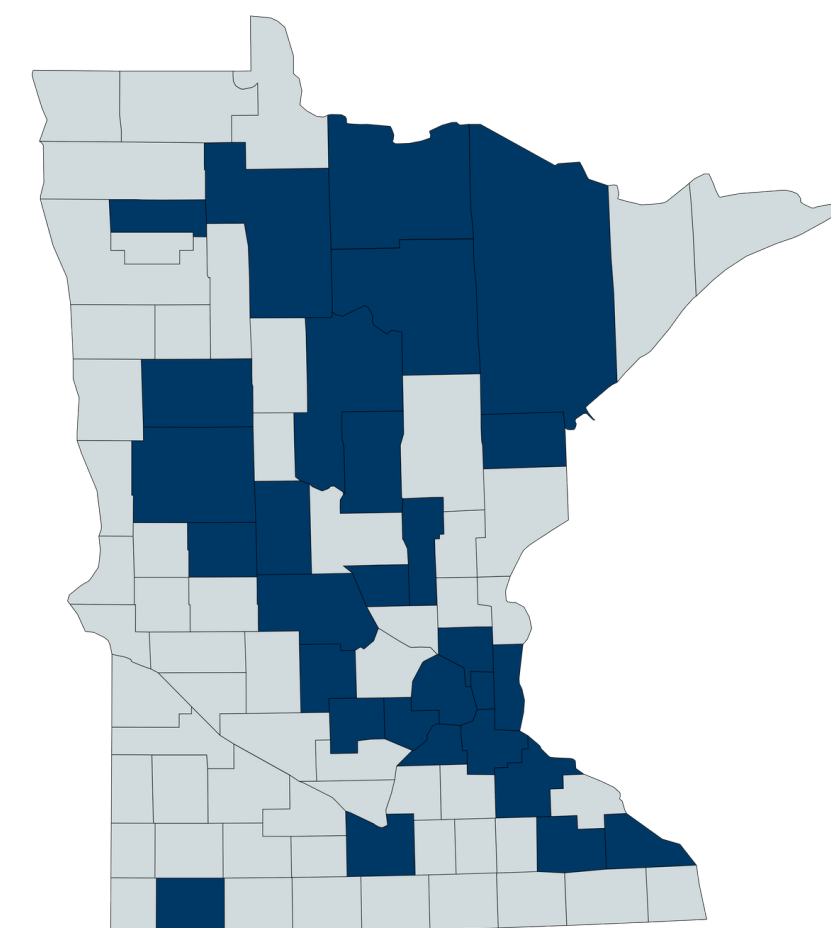
(July–December 2025)

April to June 2025 (3 months)
compared to July to December (6
months)

- Direct contact with Fosters
for cases
 - 39% to 60%
- 25 counties to 31 counties

Still figuring out how to gather
and report on demographic
information

Reviewed
113
concerns



From
31
counties*

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Future plans:

- Continue to refine report
- Incorporate more visuals, images, etc.

What types of information do you want to see?

What types of information are not helpful?

MID-YEAR DATA REPORT

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OOFY Issue Report - Supporting Sibling Connections

Status of Recommendations to DCYF

OOFY Recommendation	DCYF Response	Status
Provide more detailed and updated written practice guidance to case workers	Accepted - timeframe of October 2025	Published March 2026
Additional training based on updated guidance	Accepted	Ongoing effort/Unclear
Updated SBOR notification form	Accepted - timeframe of January 2026	Published March 30, 2026
Update “HelpText” guidance for caseworkers	Accepted - timeframe of October 2025	Published February 2026

OOFY Investigative Report - Supporting Sibling Connections

Next steps:

- Continue communication with DCYF re: aspects of OOFY recommendations and feedback not yet implemented
- Continued recommendation regarding training
- Publish brief status report - target date August 2026





After the Children & Families hearing for FYBOR!

Legislative Updates

- 13 days left in legislative session!
- Foster Youth Bill of Rights
- OOFY's statute & data access

