

## Minutes: OOFY November Meeting

11/06/25, 6:30-8 PM

### 1. Optional Social Time (6-6:30)

### 2. Board Business: (6:30-7)

- Overview of Co-Chair Elections (Robin provides updates, see attachment).
- Board Appointments for Open Seats (Robin provides updates, see attachment).
- Meeting Schedule: several board members have asked to review the meeting schedule. What has been working, and what would you change? (Co-chair led discussion).
  - o Scheduling poll was sent out for all members to complete by 11/14. Scheduling will be discussed in the December meeting.
- Vacancy for circle keeper and/or team building (Co-chair led discussion).
  - o Sasha is interested!
  - o Elena has led circles before and is happy to step into this role, while encouraging foster leaders to out circle keeping. Elena can share resources and coaching for those who want to try.
  - o Who else is interested in this opportunity?
- Questions/Discussion:
  - o Sasha: Since we didn't meet this month in person, will we next week? It would be nice to see people face to face.
    - The board can decide to change to an in-person meeting, while giving OOFY staff 3-4 weeks of time to prepare, book spaces, order food, etc.
  - o Mallory: rotating times Morning, Afternoon, Evening is difficult with some schedules. Invites others to share perspective.
  - o Sage: can we schedule the next meeting at the last meeting?
    - This is difficult with scheduling. If the board decides to do this, we can.
    - Other members express that they would like a consistent day.

### 3. Board Charter: (7-7:10)

- There are several parts of the charter that need the board's attention: Guiding Principles, Gratitude & Concerns, Role of Board Caretakers.
- The Co-chairs determined that the board will work on one section at a time, for the next three meetings, looking at the Role of Board Caretakers.
- The board decided to discuss this at the December meeting.

#### 4. Legislative Session Preview (7:10-7:50)

- Hannah, Ziigwan, and Lexi will share about OOFY's efforts to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. \*Slides from this presentation have been shared via email.
- Why does MN need a Foster Bill of Rights?
  - 1 - we know there are gaps in our current rights. 3 different definitions of foster care!
  - 2 - we know that Fosters have different experiences based on their county. A BOR establishes the baseline expectations!
  - 3 - we need to educate Fosters and their loved ones about their rights! we can be much more successful if they are together in one place.
- Graphic of Foster rights around the US:
  - Sharing this to give an idea of the landscape of Foster rights around the country.
  - States in green have Foster rights in statute or administrative code. So, they have been passed by a lawmaking body and would take formal efforts to change.
  - These states in light green have Foster rights collected in one place, usually written into agency policy.
  - There is a lot of variation in these states, but I wanted to show where Minnesota fits in.
  - To be clear, Fosters have rights in every state! But if Fosters and their supporters don't understand what they are, it makes it a lot harder to ensure they are being respected.
  - OOFY is working on joining the light green states, gathering all of the rights Fosters currently have in MN, AND passing our own BOR like the dark green states!
- Considerations:
  - Scope: What is the jurisdiction? Where do we or others have control, influence, or impact? How do we write a BOR that is implementable and also creates meaningful improvement for Fosters?
  - Balance: BORs range from very broad to very specific--how much to we define and explain, to make sure the rights are clear, while also knowing that if we are too prescriptive, we risk being too narrow.
  - Strategy: This is not one magic solution for all of the barriers and challenges we see. CA passed their bill 25 years ago, and revised it in 2019. We are springboarding off of their work and the work of other states, but the BOR will not be perfect or solve every concern we see in the system but we hope to have the best starting point we can.

#### 5. Public Comment: no public comments.

#### 6. Meeting Close (7:55-8)

Present: Kristy, Jasmine, Sasha, Vivian, Nia, Vivian, Mallory, Sage, Elena, Lucina.

Staff: Misty Coonce, Hannah Planalp, Robin Purman, Alexis Borgesen, Ziigwan Frazer.