

October 2025 Minutes

10/7/25; 3:30-5 pm, virtual

Chair: Jasmine Clark

1. Optional Social Time (3-3:30)

2. Welcome and Board Business (3:30-3:50)

- Upcoming board appointment season:
 - The following seats will be up for reappointment in 2026: 2 youth, 1 adult, 1 nonprofit, 1 GaL. The GO is in the process of appointing the 1 open adult seat. Members re-applying for their seats will be prioritized. Applications open 11/1/25.
 - Last year, applications for board seats were reviewed by a small committee with staff representation. Applicants were scored and then the group had a holistic discussion to finalize recommendations to the GO.
 - **Sage, Sasha, Charie and MJ are interested in being part of the board appointment process. Robin will send out more information.**
- Co-chair vacancy and elections:
 - Currently, Jasmine is our only co-chair. The board needs an interim co-chair for November and December 2025. This would involve one extra meeting per month, which you can be compensated for. Robin and Misty attend the extra meeting and can help support.
 - **Vivian will be interim co-chair through the end of the year.**

3. Continued Work on Agency Values w/ Athena Adkins, Better World Partners (3:50-4:35)

- a. Process Recap: Values developed with Athena via a form sent previously. Initial review by Board. Returned to staff for feedback and shaping. Final outcome: Working agency values. Group Decision: Work on values as a full group rather than smaller teams.
- b. What stands out to you from these values?
 - i. Vivian: Emphasized compassion; meeting people where they are, seeing the whole person.
 - ii. Lacey: Highlighted curiosity, honor, acknowledgement, strength, and truth.
 - iii. #4: Recognize people may not share everything; need to go deeper.
 - iv. #1: Communicate recommendations gently and with care.
 - v. MJ: Emphasized seeing the person, not the case or stereotype; practicing unjudgmental help.
 - vi. Charie: Reflected on working with care, especially in understanding board dynamics.
 - vii. Kristy: Noted work with care and say what's true as key; appreciated root and branches metaphor.
 - viii. Athena: Importance of defining terms (e.g., respect, gentleness) as part of shared values.
- c. Which values seem easiest or most natural?
 - i. Sasha: Highlighted the challenge of showing youth they are being put first.
 - ii. MJ: Most natural: #5 Hardest: Saying what's true from others' perspectives, especially when transparency is lacking due to trust issues or fear of reactions.
 - iii. Nia: Challenging but essential: Equity. Importance of distinguishing equity vs. equality; both are vital but serve different purposes.

- iv. Lacey: Emphasized that putting youth first is multi-faceted. Referenced root and branches metaphor and youth feedback about lack of consistent adult support (e.g., frequent changes in GaLs, social workers).
 - v. Jasmine: Values: Work with care, see the whole person, meet youth where they're at. Reflected on past experience of withholding trust from adults; valued persistence and consistency in workers.
 - vi. Lucina: Easiest: Say what's true. Hardest: Work with care, especially when balancing truth-telling with compassion and understanding.
 - vii. Vivian: Stressed need for truth from adults; youth should be prioritized over adult emotions or opinions.
 - viii. Jasmine (follow-up): Suggested possibly adding truth and transparency as explicit language in the values.
- d. If OOFY really lived by these values, what would you expect to see or hear in the interactions? What would be different about OOFY?
- i. Kristy: there would be recourse if someone is lied to, young people know they are put first. Ways to be fully heard.
 - ii. MJ: Hopefully seeing more youth lead conversations, where we are listening from first person rather than secondhand.
 - iii. Vivian: Remove negative stigma, trust, inclusiveness, compassion. Not causing additional trauma.
 - iv. Sasha: youth are aware workers are getting paid. Showing up on a personal level, that you care about them as an individual. Full transparency with the youth leads to a trusting relationship.
 - v. Jasmine: changing the relationship between youth and the state. Being on the board has changed her perspective and given her a lot of hope.
 - vi. Elena: seeing the values in practice at OOFY could empower youth to call out behavior at the professional level. That youth can take tangible skills back to their real life.
- e. Are these values solid enough for us to be able to use and test in practice? The board says yes. Athena reminds us that these will take practice.

4. Ombuds Report w/ Ombudsperson Misty Coonce (4:35-5:00)

a. Project Highlights:

- Hannah gave a walkthrough of the draft Annual Report last month. It includes a data overview, highlights of key themes, trends and projects, and priorities for the next year. Now that it is complete, it has been submitted to the Legislative Reference Library (LRL) as required – it will be included in the LRL September update to the legislators, staff, and others who sign up. It is also published on the OOFY website.
- The Sibling Issue Report was completed in June and included a window of time for DCYF to prepare a response prior to finalizing and publishing. We have shared it with the GaL program with plans for further discussion on how it will be shared out to GaLs and managers, have shared it with the Children's cabinet, and we are finalizing plans for how else to share it out to legislators, counties, etc.
- Our September newsletter focused on the power of foster youth voice, and will feature the annual report, sibling issue report, and OOFY videos – all of which wouldn't exist without Fosters sharing their voice.

b. Year 2 Priorities:

- i. Foundational work: office space, agency mission and values, team culture building, effective data tracking and evaluation, technology access (Zoom, YakChat, MGA)
 - ii. Foster Youth Rights Materials
 - iii. Legislative activities – BOR, SSIS, language clean-up.
- c. What would the Advisory Board like to hear more about at future meetings, related to the OOFY annual report, Issue Report, Year 2 priorities, or anything else?

- i. Elena: Future: Updates on the EFC research
- ii. Kristy: I am curious about the process of including DCYF on the Sibling Report. And if that inclusion may lead to better buy in to the recommendations. What happens next.

5. Meeting Close, 5:00 PM