



Council on Child
Safety and
Family Empowerment

GOVERNOR DUCEY'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY
COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2020

10:00 AM

Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

A general meeting of the Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment was convened on January 9, 2019 at the Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (20)	
Angela Ducey , Chair, First Lady of Arizona	Terry M. Crist , Pastor, Hillsong Phoenix
Kathryn A. Pidgeon , Co-Chair, Adoption Attorney	Torrie Taj , CEO, Child Crisis Arizona
Berisha Black , Director, Arizona Foster Care Initiatives	Vicki Mayo , Founder and CEO, The Touchpoint Solution
Brad Snyder , New Amsterdam Consulting	Zora Manjencich , Assistant Chief Counsel, Attorney General
Colleen McNally , Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Maricopa County, Retired	
Jay A. Cory , President and CEO, Phoenix Rescue Mission	
Jeffrey James Taylor , Chair, Salvation Army Advisory Board	
Kate Brophy McGee , Arizona State Senator	
Katie O'Dell , City Care Pastor, Hillsong Phoenix	
Leslie Y. Reprogle , Founder, Agape Adoption Agency Arizona (via phone)	Members Absent (6)
Mark Upton , President and CEO, Christian Family Care	Andrea Stuart , Executive V.P. Staff Services & Care, Arizona Baptist Children's Association
Mike Faust , Director, AZ Department of Child Safety	Darlene Newsom , CEO, UMOM New Day Centers
Molly Dunn , Director, FosterEd Arizona	James D. Molina , Director, Step up Arizona
Obed Escobar , Regional Director, Alliance Defending Freedom	Janet L. Garcia , Arizona Senior Director, Casey Family Programs
Paul S. Mulligan , President and CEO, Catholic Charities	Lorrie Henderson , State Director, AZ 1.27
Richard Yarbough , Executive Director, Pilgrim Rest Foundation	Warren H. Stewart Jr. , Pastor, Church of the Remnant
Staff/Guests Present (25)	
Maria Fuentes , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	Edith Croxen , Pima County Office of Children's Counsel
Cecilia Fernandez , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	Michelle Francois , FosterEd
Leona Morales , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	Skye Steele , Streetlight USA
Olivia Christiani , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
Gaelyn Davis , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
Terrilyn Miller , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	
Christal Zeigler , A Place to Call Home	
Leonard Clinton , Honoree	
Indy Jones , BACA	
Kate Campbell , Voices for CASA	
Sue Frantz	
Penny Allee Taylor , Valley of the Sun United Way	
Tiffany Hill , AdoptAZ	

1. Call to Order

Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair, called the Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment meeting to order at 10:15 AM with 20 members present and 6 members absent.

2. Opening Remarks

Mrs. Angela Ducey, Chair, welcomed all to the Governor's Child Safety and Family Empowerment Council. Introduced new council member, **Mr. Brad Snyder**, who is the new Board Chair for the Arizona Adverse Childhood Experiences Consortium. **Mrs. Angela Ducey** recognized **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon** for her work with Maricopa County Adoption Day for the past 20 years.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon asked members to review the copy of minutes from the November 14, 2019 meeting. **Mrs. Angela Ducey** requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2019 meeting. **Ms. Torrie Taj** moved to approve the minutes as drafted and **Ms. Vicki Mayo** seconded. The motion passed with unanimous vote.

4. Special Recognition

Mrs. Angela Ducey, Chair, recognized Leonard Clinton, for his decision to foster adopt because of the need he saw in the community for permanent homes for older children in foster care. His passion for the process was fueled by his strong desire to parent a child that needed a forever home. A video of Leonard and his son was shown.

5. Trauma to Triumph Streetlight USA

Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon introduced **Ms. Skye Steele**, Chief Executive Officer of StreetLight USA. **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon** gave an overview of Dr. Carter's work at Phoenix Children's Hospital, including Ms. Steele work with the Phoenix Dream Center in the past ten years by building programs such as the Human Trafficking, Women's and Youth Development programs.

Ms. Skye Steele gave a presentation on StreetLight USA, a 24 bed group home offering trauma-informed enhanced services to meet the unique needs of female/child victims, with 10 beds offering in-patient behavioral health treatment for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victims. Streetlight USA was established in 2009 by several local churches. **Ms. Steele** described Streetlight USA's role in the community as child and family team members who uphold collaboration, communication, education, support and child advocacy. **Ms. Steele** stated that misidentified victims tend to get pigeonholed into treatment for only the surface issues; however, complex and developmental trauma is what is seen most in their facility and described StreetLight's internal action from a clinical lens when approaching complex, developmental and PTSD trauma. **Ms. Steele** stated that when working in Human Trafficking, relationships are the key to intervention. StreetLight USA uses a bottom-up approach to healing trauma based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. StreetLight USA began using Trauma Responsive Intake and realized that 80% of the girls were AWOLing within 24 hours in 2017. By redesigning the intake format to focus on connecting and meeting the girl's immediate needs, just 6% of girls leave the site within 24 hours of intake. **Ms. Steele** stated that the stages of the healing process are found to take about a year.

- **Ms. Torrie Taj** asked for the average age of victims seen at StreetLight USA. **Ms. Skye Steele** stated the average age is 14 years old.
- **Ms. Vicki Mayo** asked if the intake process was a system that they used or did they develop it. **Ms. Skye Steele** stated that Dr. Angela Saloman developed it after finding that the two to three hour intake process wasn't working. They have integrated the necessary intake documents into a "welcome week".

- **Mrs. Angela Ducey** asked why this intake process was implemented and how long did it take to see the change. **Ms. Skye Steele** states the intake process was implemented 9 months after StreetLight USA began and that it takes about 90 days to really see the change.
- **Ms. Molly Dunn** asked what trauma informed academics looks like. **Ms. Skye Steele** shared that when trauma victims were attending public school while receiving services, these students would come back to StreetLight USA dysregulated. In their trauma-informed school, students can come back with their blankets and comfy clothes. Classrooms also have sensory-regulating equipment.
- **Ms. Molly Dunn** asked how girls are transitioned out of care. **Ms. Skye Steele** stated that they rely on the Child and Family Team (CFT) to make that decision by reviewing the academic and social progress of the girl.
- **Mr. Mike Faust** stated that he have seen vast improvements at StreetLight USA and commends them for their improvement as an organization and how that will have a lasting impact on the youth.
- **Mr. Jeff Taylor** also expressed how he sees the impressive impact that StreetLight USA has had. He asked what drug screening is used. **Ms. Skye Steel** stated that girls are ideally screened and detoxed at St. Luke's before they arrive at Streetlight USA. **Mr. Jeff Taylor** stated that some FBI rescued children were placed at the Salvation Army and it was difficult for them to place children, he sees this as a gap of service. **Ms. Skye Steel** states that children can stay at StreetLight USA as long as they need, even after aging out (18 years old) as long as they are going to school or working.
- **Mr. Mike Faust** stated that support professionals should be advocating for children to stay in services until they are 21. There are a total of 50 beds in the East Valley and they are looking for other counties across the state who have beds available.
- **Ms. Skye Steel** called for mentorship roles for church and community volunteers to work with aging out youth.
- **Ms. Berisha Black** asked what is the youngest age to enter the program. **Ms. Skye Steel** states that the youngest was 11 years old when they were accepting 11-17 years old. Now they are taking 13-17 year olds.
- **Ms. Katie O'Dell** asked if they take pregnant or parenting youth. **Ms. Skye Steel** stated yes, they can't support parenting moms but will help with visitation.

6. Video on the Arizona Human Trafficking Collaborative

7. Pima County Juvenile Court Practice

Mrs. Kathryn Pidgeon introduced **Ms. Edith Croxen**, Chief Counsel of the Pima County Office of Children's Counsel. **Ms. Edith Croxen** represented family law and juvenile law as well as represented Child Protective Services in multiple southern Arizona counties. **Ms. Edith Croxen** discussed how Pima County Children's Counsel follows the attributes as laid out in the Family Justice Initiative handout that she provided. **Ms. Edith Croxen** highlighted the differences between Guardian Ad Litem's and Attorneys and how they approach these roles at the Counsel. Typically attorneys will meet with the child within 48 hours of the time they have been appointed. They will also perform a second visit with the child to look at how the child is responding to their environment. Children who are verbal will meet with their attorney more frequently whereas non-verbal children will meet with an MSW who attends all of their CFT meetings. One need that **Ms. Edith Croxen** states she sees they are unable to keep an attorney for the life of the case because of the length of time it takes the state. There are also many severance filed due to the length of time the state is taking to move the case forward. **Ms. Edith Croxen** states that cases that are reactivated once the child goes home and then goes back into the system and she also states there is a 75% guarantee that a case will reactivate within 2 years after services drop. **Ms. Edith Croxen** states there is a lack of training for attorneys on diversity and culture.

Mr. Mike Faust states that Pima County has a greater re-entry rate than any other county in Arizona. He explained there is a new law for federal funding from Fall 2019 that funds are only permissible to cover attorney legal fees. Counties will claim for those expenses and 75% of the reimbursement must be invested back into quality of representation. **Mr. Mike Faust** states there was a draft document completed by DCS in December

of 2019 that will be presented to all counties.

8. Update on Recent and Upcoming Events

Mrs. Kathryn Pidgeon introduced **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes** of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes** spoke of the recent staffing changes within the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. She thanked the Council and Workgroup members for their patience over the last few months. She also asked the members to nominate amazing child welfare advocates in our communities who should be recognized by the Council for their work.

9. Workgroup Reports

Prevention Workgroup - Vicki Mayo, Prevention Workgroup Chair, said that the group had the opportunity to meet on Jan. 8 to discuss opportunities to reach communities through roundtable discussions. She said the group is drafting a proposal to hold several roundtables in Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff and Yuma to highlight child care resources. She also said the group would like to create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to educate the community about expulsions and parental rights. The group plans to submit a written proposal by Friday, Jan. 17 for review.

Outreach Workgroup- Katie O'Dell, Chair of the Outreach Workgroup, said her group is continuing their work to secure a location for their upcoming proposed community forum. They hope to hold it in the Glendale area and are currently looking for the venue. The forum will connect the community with resources from the AZ Department of Child Safety. The focus will be held in February or March.

Support Workgroup- Berisha Black, Chair of the Support Workgroup, told the Council that her group is working on the ACEs Parent Peer Support Group Report. They are finalizing their work and hope to have a final version to submit soon.

10. Future Meeting Dates and Adjournment

Mrs. Kathryn Pidgeon noted the following upcoming meeting dates:

- March 12, 2020
- May 14, 2020
- September 10, 2020
- November 12, 2020

Mrs. Angela Ducey requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Paul Mulligan** motioned to adjourn. **Ms. Vicki Mayo** seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no dissent. The meeting adjourned at **11:59 AM**.