

DCYF Advisory Board Agenda  
Dolloff Building, SOPS Campus  
November 21, 2022

**Attendance:** Mike Adamkowski, Sandra McGonagle, Dolly McPhaul, Lori Hebert, Rep. Long, Rep. DeSimone, Alysia Kennard, Deb Kavanagh, Kara Buxton, Joe Ribsam, Melissa Wardner. **Excused:** Tessa Dyer, Patricia Stolte and Sen. Avard. **Absent:** Rep. Rice, Sen. Reagan and Rep. Belanger. **Public:** Julian Long, Urban Programs, City of Nashua.

**Approval of Minutes:** Representative Long made a motion to approve the August and September minutes as written; seconded by Sandra McGonagle; one abstention; both carry.

**Foster Care Recruitment/Caregiver Coordinator:**

A presentation was given by Deb Kavanagh, Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services and Alysia Kennard, Child Protection Field Administrator on the new Caregiver Coordinator Unit describing what it is, who is in it and how it's going to help the children and families we deal with. See attached PowerPoint.

Heather Hall, Program Specialist presented on Foster Care Recruitment and Retention for the last year and reviewed the Core Areas of Strategic Attention below. See attached PowerPoint.

- ❖ Recruitment Funnel
- ❖ Community Partnerships
- ❖ Recruitment Events
- ❖ DO Focus & Support
- ❖ Foster Parent Culture & Retention
- ❖ Social Media Campaign

**SYSC Update:**

Due to staffing shortages, we have had to institute mandatory overtime for the Juvenile Probation & Parole Staff in order to keep youth & staff safe at SYSC. Other Department staff have volunteered to assist with coverage also once they have been trained. Due to the uncertainty of what is happening with SYSC, a lot of staff have left and/or will not apply to work there. SYSC is supposed to close March 2023 but there is no way we can do that as it will take at least 2-3 years to build a new facility. A bill has been submitted to extend the closure date.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. Wardner  
Administrative Assistant II