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## DCFS Advisory Board

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Agency: [Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services Advisory Board](#)

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## Summary

- Following introductions, the meeting started with public comments from representatives of the Cleveland Christian Home (CCH).
- One board member referenced [H.O.P.E \(Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences\)](#), an initiative led by Dr. Robert Sege, a board-certified general and child abuse pediatrician based in the Boston area.
- There are weekly meetings between CCH and the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to ensure that goals are being met, according to a CCH representative.

## Follow-Up Questions

- Will DCFS business be made more public knowledge?
- Will conversations be held with the Cleveland Foundation about wrap-around services for schools and community agencies to have preventive care?
- How will partner agencies know that there is room to help DCFS?

## Notes

The meeting started at 4:07 p.m., being called to order by Board Chair Angela M. Newman-White. The Cleveland Christian Home updates were provided by Executive Director Dawnya Underwood and her colleague David Gray.

Key points that were talked about were some of the goals for turning CCH into a [child wellness campus](#). Over the next year, expansion and renovation of the building is planned, said Underwood. Underwood added that they hope the new campus will be operational by 2027. The housing on the campus will be updated and the intake center will be turned into a welcome center. Plans to help create a more welcoming center include:

- \*Hiring more staff
- \*Training staff
- \*Housing on campus (Building off the [T-Suites](#), which Gray said carried the intention of feeling like a hotel and offering a more comfortable feel for the youth staying overnight)
- \*Rapid response team
- \* Partnerships with all hospitals in the city
- \* Partnering with DCFS

As updates and goals for the child wellness campus finished up, some questions were asked. Some were about youth input on services. Others were about how data is being measured, especially if youth have returned to the center a second time. Measuring these goals and collecting this data helps create more preventive care, some board members said.

Dr. Andrew S. Garner, board member, talked about data being the driving force to help create goals and preventive care for families. Garner mentioned the H.O.P.E model.

Newman-White continued with the order of the [agenda](#) by asking if there were any additional public comments or questions. Newman-White then asked for the approval of the June 5 meeting minutes, which the board approved.

Newman-White, who also chairs the board's Governance Subcommittee, welcomed new committee members Daniel Smith and Bianca Crawford to introduce themselves.

Board Member M. Gabriella Celeste gave Prevention Subcommittee updates. Celeste requested the board approve submitting a [letter](#) asking healthcare institutions to recruit a board-certified child abuse pediatrician for the county's [child protection team](#). The board approved sending the letter, and it also approved the board's formal definition of "prevention" at Celeste's request.

The meeting discussion continued, centered around data and how this can help have best practices for better outcomes.

Other updates were that events and community outreach are happening more to meet people where they are in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. Next meeting will be Oct. 2 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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