



Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment
September 10th, 2020
10:00 AM
State Capitol Executive Tower
 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
 Virtual Meeting

A general meeting of the **Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment** was convened on September 10, 2020. The public meeting was hosted virtually, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (20)
Mrs. Ducey, First Lady of Arizona - Chair
Kathryn A. Pidgeon, Pidgeon & Hill- Co-Chair
Andrea Stuart, Arizona Baptist Children’s Services
Berisha Black, Arizona Foster Care Initiatives
Brad Snyder, Arizona ACEs Consortium
Colleen A. McNally, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Retired
Darlene G. Newsom, UMOM New Day Centers
Janet L. Garcia, Casey Family Programs
Jay A. Cory, Leadership Development Group
Jeffrey James Taylor, Salvation Army Advisory Board
Katie J. O’Dell, AZ 1.27
Maria Cristina Fuentes, Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Mark Upton, Christian Family Care
Michael Faust, Department of Child Safety
Obed Escobar, Church Alliance
Paul S. Mulligan, Catholic Charities
Rachel Mitchell, Maricopa County Attorney’s Office
Richard D. Yarbough, Pilgrim Rest Foundation
Torrie Taj, Child Crisis Arizona
Vicki Mayo, The Touchpoint Solution
Zora Manjencich, Attorney General’s Office
Members Absent (5)
James D. Molina, Step Up Arizona
Senator Brophy McGee, Arizona State Senator
Leslie Y. Repogle, Agape Adoption Agency of Arizona
Lorrie G. Henderson, Jewish Family Children Services

Warren H. Stewart, First Institutional Baptist Church
Staff and Guests Present
Maria Cristina Fuentes, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Kristin Sorensen, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Kim Brooks, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Gaelyn Davis, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Steven Selover, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Bahney Dedolph, Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Katilin Harrier, Governor's Education Policy Advisor
Jasmin Williams, Sesame Street
Jonathan Sanborn, CarePortal

Call to Order

- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair** called the **Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment** meeting to order at 10:07 AM with 20 members present. **Ms. Pidgeon** reviewed virtual meeting platform procedures.

Opening Remarks

- **Mrs. Angela Ducey, Chair, welcomed** everyone to the **Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment** meeting and thanked the Council for attending.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair took roll call and** requested a final review of the January 9th, 2020 meeting minutes.
 - **Katie O'Dell** motioned to accept the January 9th, 2020 minutes without revision.
 - **Brad Snyder** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Special Recognition

- **Mrs. Angela Ducey, Chair, recognized** Bahney Dedolph and the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers (the Council). Bahney, Candi Espino, Linda Scott and other leaders of the Council assisted the Arizona Department of Child Safety in developing policies and guidance during COVID-19 that focused on the safety of children and families, all while making sure critical services continue to families in need. Through this partnership, DCS and the Council have collaborated to ensure permanency outcomes are still achieved and Arizona's children and families are served during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Mrs. Ducey** thanked Bahney and the Council for their ongoing support during COVID-19.
- **Ms. Bahney Dedolph** thanked the Council for the recognition and looks forward to continuing to support the work of DCS in the future.

School Update

- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair** introduced **Katilin Harrier**, Governor's Education Policy Advisor.
- **Kaitlin** provided information on Arizona's Open for Learning plan. Kaitlin shared that the goal is to provide students with the closest thing to normality and consistency in learning as possible, while prioritizing their health and safety. Covid-19 presents the greatest challenge to public education in our lifetime, and Arizona has the opportunity to lead the nation in providing the best learning experience to kids during this crisis.
- Governor Ducey announced an additional one-time investment in K-12 education from federal CARES Act dollars. A total of \$370 million is being invested to provide critical support to districts and charter schools. This is to ensure budget stability and provide funding when students are learning in the traditional classroom setting, recognizing the additional costs in-person learning will bring to districts this school year.
- According to a 2020 analysis by McKinsey & Company related to the impacts of the pandemic, learning loss will probably be greatest among low-income, Black, and Hispanic students.
 - Additional investments are being made to assist these students and target closing the achievement gap and bring kids up to speed.
- Governor Ducey met with 30 Superintendents, including Arizona Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Hoffman, to collaborate on best education practices.
- **Vicki Mayo** inquired how the technological divide is determined in rural or impoverished areas. **Kaitlin** shared that there is an algorithm that will be used to identify the areas and demographics with gaps in services to support the success of the students and teachers.
- **Mrs. Angela Ducey, Chair** asked who is identifying whether the school districts are complying with the protocol for social distance learning to support the funding requirements. **Kaitlin** explained that the Arizona Department of Child Safety is identifying children in foster care that are having problems accessing services. If districts are not complying with the funding requirements, there is a process established to work with the district to support compliance in order to maintain funding.
- **Kaitlin** stated that she will be providing GOYFF with more information on the A for Arizona Innovation Microgrants and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund investment of \$1 million.
- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon** thanked **Kaitlin** for the presentation.

Update from DCS

- **Mrs. Angela Ducey, Chair**, introduced **Director Michael Faust**. **Director Faust** provided an update from the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS).
- **Director Faust** stated that there are currently 13,300 children in foster care and approximately 1,000 in extended foster care.
- Throughout COVID-19, stakeholders have worked to continue to achieve permanency for Arizona's children.

- DCS is asking schools to report which children have not reported in to online or in-person classes at all this year in order to support the education and health of the children.
- **Director Faust shared that** service providers have continued to support children by going into homes twice a week.
- Total reports to DCS have decreased by 20% and school reporting has decreased by 90%.
- DCS's 'You Are Essential Campaign' is pivotal to reach new families interested in becoming licensed as a foster parent.
- **Jeffrey Taylor** inquired if there is an uptake on any other law enforcement responses, whether it was a neighbor or other sources calling in regards to child safety.
- **Director Faust** reiterated the decrease in overall reporting as schools are the largest source of reporting.
- **Vicki Mayo** inquired about the protocol for childcare centers and schools to remain open.
- **Director Faust** responded that by providing the proper support they will ensure social distancing and protective care. The main goal is to stay accessible and open.
- **Mrs. Angela Ducey** thanked Director Faust for his presentation.

Sesame Streets In Communities

- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced **Jasmin Williams**, Senior Project Manager of US Social Impact at Sesame Workshop.
- Sesame Street workshop, in addition to being an iconic television show is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help children grow smart, stronger and kinder. Sesame Street reaches millions of children in more than 150 countries.
- Sesame Street has three focused social impact programs within the US: Sesame Street and Autism, Sesame Street for Military Families, and Sesame Street in Communities (SSIC).
- With nearly half of American children having at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), Sesame Street feels ACEs impacts a child's ability to learn, affects their physical and mental health and changes how they interact with the world - making it more difficult to be smarter, stronger and kinder.
- SSIC uses a research-based process to create content, ensuring the project delivers impact.
- Sesame Street in Communities is a model that reaches vulnerable children and families through:
 - An online resource content hub
 - Professional development tools
 - Implementation with national and community partners
- SSIC is currently in 12 communities throughout the United States. In Maricopa County, SSIC partners with AzDHS, Arizona Recovers, First Things First and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. A virtual launch is scheduled for Arizona in October.
- **Ms. Pidgeon** thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation.

CarePortal

- **Mrs. Angela Ducey, Chair**, introduced **Jonathan Sanborn**, State Director of CarePortal.
- **Mr. Sanborn** provided a brief history and overview of CarePortal, sharing that 127 churches within Arizona partner with CarePortal, serving as a Christian platform that provides churches with resources and empowerment to help needy families and children.
- 7,897 Arizona children have been impacted by CarePortal's services, with over 71,300 children served throughout the US.
- **Mrs. Ducey** thanked **Mr. Sanborn** for his presentation.

Updates from the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced Maria Fuentes, Director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family and **Rachel Mitchell**, Chair of the Children's Justice Task Force.
- **Director Fuentes** provided an overview of the Children's Justice Task Force, advising the Council that the Taskforce was previously overseen by the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission. Under Executive Order 2020-05, the Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment will now oversee the work of the Taskforce. Rachel Mitchell will serve as the Task Force Chair.
- **Director Fuentes** shared that it is Suicide prevention week and there will be a press conference with the Governor at 1 pm today.
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. The Governor's Office is encouraging people to light Arizona Purple through the 6th annual Lighting AZ Purple campaign. The Capitol dome will be lit purple and we are asking stakeholders to light their homes and businesses purple in support of victims and survivors of Domestic Violence.
- Adoption month is quickly approaching in November. The Council is encouraged to stay tuned for a unique campaign.
- The Child Safety and Family Empowerment Annual Report has been completed. This was shared on the Google meeting invitation and will be posted online following this meeting.
- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon** thanked **Director Fuentes** for her presentation.

Work Group Updates

- Prevention Workgroup Chair, **Vicki Mayo**, reported that the chairs will be meeting next week to continue their work in the Child care space.
- Outreach Workgroup Chair, **Katie O'Dell**, stated there are no reports as the work group has not met recently. The group will resume meeting following this Council meeting.
- Support Workgroup Chair, **Berisha Black**, shared with the group that the ACEs Support Group report is complete and is in the meeting materials and will be posted on the GOYFF website. The work group will resume meeting quickly following this Council meeting.

2020 Meeting Dates

- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, shared that November 10th, 2020 will be the next meeting. This is different than the previously scheduled date and has been adjusted due to Veteran's Day. GOYFF has proposed dates that will be shared with the Council soon.

Adjourn

- **Mrs. Ducey, Chair**, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Brad Snyder** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Rachel Mitchell** seconded the motion.
 - The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.

Dated the tenth day of September, 2020
Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment
Respectfully Submitted By:
Kim Brooks
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family