

OCA Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes – November 26, 2024

OCA Staff: Christina D. Ghio, Acting Child Advocate

Members Present: Edwin Colon, Shelley Geballe, Danielle Cooper, Zakkyya Williams

Members Not Present: Jeanne Milstein

1. Approval of Minutes

October 22, 2024 minutes need to be approved. Members reviewed the minutes. Edwin Colon moved to approve; Shelley Geballe seconded. Edwin Colon, Shelley Geballe, and Danielle Cooper voted in favor. None opposed. Zakkyya Williams abstained.

2. Update Regarding Advisory Committee Membership

Zakkyya Williams has been appointed by Representative Candelora. The Committee welcomed Ms. Williams. Another committee member was appointed, but was not able to serve due to the fact that he had a contract with an entity that receives state funds. The appointing Senator's office was informed. There are currently two open positions on the Advisory Committee.

3. Update re: Posting Child Advocate Position

Since last meeting, some revisions were made to the posting based on feedback from HR and OCA expects that it will be posted soon.

4. Investigation Updates

OCA recently released our report on the conditions of confinement at MYI. Major findings include that MYI continues to rely on isolation as primary response to behaviors. Time has reduced from 30 days to 3 days. Incidents of isolation, called RAMP, had reduced in 2023 then increased in 2024, as did incidents of chemical agent. Most children do not have weekly individual mental health treatment.

OCA has some information to share with the Advisory Committee regarding pending investigations and thus confidential. Motion to go into executive session made by Danielle Cooper, seconded by Shelley Geballe. All voted in favor. Confidential investigations discussed in Executive Session. Motion to end executive session by Shelley Geballe, seconded by Danielle Cooper. All voted in favor.

5. Scheduling

Next meeting: was scheduled December 24, 2024. The December meeting is cancelled due to the holiday.

Meeting Adjourned.