

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE
165 CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106**



**Sarah Healy Eagan, J.D.
Child Advocate**

OCA Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes – April 2, 2024

OCA Staff: Sarah Eagan, Child Advocate; Christina D. Ghio, Associate Child Advocate

Members Present: Shelley Geballe, Jennifer Collins, Jeanne Milstein, Danielle Cooper

Members Not Present: Edwin Colon, Amanda Meeson

1. Approval of Minutes

February minutes need to be approved. Deferred to next month when we have full committee.

2. Legislative Update

OCA is working to have legislative recommendations from the report regarding Liam R. enacted into law. The bill is moving forward and OCA is working with agencies on an amendment to the JFS language. The OCA is also working on recommendations that the ADPC work on plans for distribution of Naloxone and a subcommittee to work on the intersection of child welfare and harm reduction. Current proposal is to have the CFRP house that subcommittee and move the work forward. DDS related bill was proposed in follow up to OCA report. Some provisions have fiscal implications and OCA is working on obtaining agreement to some of the revenue neutral pieces of the proposal. There was a bill to change the mandated reporting law to allow school employees to conduct a preliminary inquiry. OCA worked to add to that bill language requiring training to ensure there is clarity between proper preliminary inquiry and improper investigation. Sarah Eagan noted that the OCPD has a proposal to use funding to make 20 social workers available to contract attorneys to improve representation in child welfare cases. OCA supports that bill.

OCA supporting a bill to have a working group to review guardianship in Probate Court, based on reported case from Bristol, in the media.

3. Introduction of New Committee Member

Members welcomed Danielle Cooper to the Committee.

4. Investigation Updates

Motion to go into executive session to discuss confidential OCA investigations by Jeanne Milstein, seconded by Shelley Geballe. All voted in favor.

Executive Session held.

Motion to end executive session by Jeanne Milstein. Seconded by Shelley Geballe. All voted in favor.

5. Scheduling

Next meeting: April 23, 2024 at 5:30

Meeting Adjourned.