

Christina D. Ghio, JD, CWLS

Acting Child Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate

OCA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2025

OCA Staff: Christina D. Ghio, Acting Child Advocate

Members Present: Shelley Geballe, Danielle Cooper, Terry Nowakowski, Zakkyya Williams, Jeanne Milstein, and Lisa Seminara

Members Not Present: Edwin Colon

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May 27, 2025 need to be approved. Members reviewed the minutes. Terry Nowakowski moved to approve; Shelley Geballe seconded. Lisa Seminara and Zakkyya Williams abstained. The remaining members voted in favor. None opposed.

2. Legislative Update

Christian Ghio updated the committee on the results of the 2025 legislative session including passage of OCA recommendations related to the probate court, the infant mortality review program, and oversight of private approved special education placements. A bill incorporating OCA's recommendations related to ABA service providers did not pass and OCA will continue to work on this legislation going forward. Christina Ghio answered questions of the Advisory Committee.

3. OCA 30th Anniversary

Danielle Cooper raised that this year is OCA's 30th year anniversary. There was a discussion about how this could be celebrated. Members agreed that a report highlighting the work of the OCA over the last 30 years would be helpful. OCA staff will work on that prior to the next meeting.

4. Investigation Updates

Motion for executive session by Jeanne Milstein to discuss confidential investigations; seconded by Lisa Seminara. Investigation updates were provided in executive session. Shelley Geballe moved to end executive session; seconded by Jeanne Milstein.

5. Scheduling

Next meeting was scheduled September 30, 2025.

Meeting Adjourned.