



**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY
CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL**

January 13, 2026

MINUTES

CRP Members present: Pierrea Wallace (Chair); Elizabeth Mohler; (Vice- Chair); Andy Miller (Treasurer); Theresa Gibson; Dr. Wanda Thompson; Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo; Dr. Tyra Moore; Carolyn Woods; Deborah Kale; Emily Bloomfield

Absent CRP Members: Shana Bartley, Whitney Miller; Meg Marcelli

Guests: Patrick Foley (former CRP member); CFSA Acting Director Tanya Trice;

Chrissy Weeks: former foster parent and Executive Director of DC 127

After Pierrea Wallace opened the meeting with Introductions, Director Trice began her presentation with sharing some of her background and values. Members learned that Director Trice has been at CFSA for 17 years, first in OYE, then Placement, and then Chief of Staff under Director Robert Matthews. Before coming to DC, she worked in child welfare in Michigan.

Director Trice shared that she believes in the “power of chances to get it right” and that that several systems have failed when a family needs to come to CFSA. She shared about her focus on prevention and her commitment for the agency to work with those with lived experience towards a systemic approach. She shared the following *core values*:

1. Prevention/Strengthening families: Families understand what they need and the agency’s role is to provide for those needs. In this light she is advocating to move their budget upstream so they can keep families together whenever it is safe to do so, in alignment with this, the number of families in CFSA’s In-home unit is currently substantially higher than those in foster care.
2. Permanency
 - a. SOUL, a new permanency option, will empower youth to have more say in choosing their permanent family structure.
 - b. More focus on resource parent recruitment and retention
3. Equity and inclusion
4. Innovation and collaboration- decision making must include input from those with lived experience.
5. Workforce development and support

Agency Priorities for 2026:

- 1) Strengthening the focus on kinship throughout every stage of care and by everyone in the agency
- 2) Enhancing Resource Parent pipeline which depends upon input from resource parents
- 3) Building on their new data system/STAAND
- 4) Strengthening the workforce

(Director Trice offered to send us this in a written document).

The following questions were asked to Director Trice by CRP members:

Andy M.- What are the ways CFSA plan to collect increased youth voice?

Answer-Youth Council, building on youth voice for SOUL, feedback, input into policies.

“How we serve has looked similar for quite some time and we need to grow.”

Theresa G.- How can CFSA assist with YAO Survey for youth and foster parents?

Answer-CFSA Youth Advisory, Nicole Gilbert/ at OYE

Director Trice offered that if CRP experiences challenges with getting information, we can reach out to her. Margie C. responded by acknowledging that we have had good conversations and responsiveness from CFSA and called out Roni positively.

Pierrea W.- Do racial disparities fall under equity and inclusion?

Answer- Absolutely. 97% of DC’s children in care are African American and from wards #5, 7 and 8. This is why she feels strongly about prevention being the focus; parent struggle and poverty should not indicate child welfare involvement. Although DC leads in the country in prevention, we haven’t seen much change since 2009 when she arrived at CFSA. Pierrea W. responded she is aware of other jurisdictions looking at systemic racism in their systems.

Dr. Tyra M.-,what I have noticed in 20 years working with CFSA is that often when things are said to change, they stay the same but under different names and the outcomes don’t change. What can you confirm as CFSA current greatest strength and biggest challenge you didn’t anticipate?

Answer: Strength- The TEAM; the people doing this work. 80% are all in and strong; concerns raised are often about the other 20% who need more support (if they are to stay in this hard work). Biggest challenge/ surprise: When the District changed in the blink of an eye last year, it became harder for families, and we had to quickly respond. The surprise was in the resilience of families who continued to care, to show up, and to participate even in this tough past year.

Pierrea W. thanked Director Trice and said she was very encouraged by her presentation. The Director agreed that we could pass along any other questions we might have and offered again that we could circle back to her after going through the chain of command if we hit issues in our

workgroups. Pierrea W. responded that it sounds like in the present, the workgroups are hitting stride and not walls.

At the end of Director Trice's presentation, Pierrea W. returned to the earlier parts of the agenda we had moved past to get to the presentation.

- Quorum was determined
- Public notice had been satisfied
- Minutes from November 2025 were approved with one amendment from Margie C. who shared that she had made a mistake in the information she had passed onto Pierrea W. (who presented the facilitator report in her absence in November). We have (2) vacancies, not (4) as written.

Facilitator's report

Margie C. thanked Pierrea W. for covering her report in November and thanked the group for their kind comments to her family on the video.

Update on MOTA and membership:

We currently have (2) vacancies with (1) person in pipeline. Although the panel decided to recruit a birth parent for the other slot, Margie C. has not moved forward on that because she wanted to wait until the process at MOTA was moving more smoothly, which she is trying to work with them on. She didn't want to recruit a birth parent only to have them held up in the pipeline for a long period of time.

Team Building:

The group had expressed wanting to do more in-person events, so the facilitators are looking at that. Dr. Tyra M. made the suggestion to do a doodle poll and set dates for the year.

National Conference:

It is exciting that we have two people who want to go and are trying to find the budget to send both.

Other facilitator news:

New member Orientation is being held tomorrow virtually if any other member wants to join.

Pierrea W. added that members could also drop in on the other workgroups to get more connection. She also asked which members had submitted their Child Protection Registry forms (7 so far) and asked to be kept updated as the rest of the panel complete theirs.

She brought up the question of how the CPR check would work for a potential new member with lived experience as a birth parent. Margie C. responded that she had brought it up to CFSA and (is under the impression) that they would make an exception.

Fiscal Report

Treasurer Andy M. gave the Fiscal report and uploaded everything to the board portal.

Public outreach Committee Update

Pierrea W. gave the following report:

- The committee is currently Dr. Wanda T, Amanda Q, Theresa G., and herself. Margie C. sometimes joins.
- The committee will need hands on support when closer to an event. In the meantime, everyone is welcome to join or just drop in. The meeting time is every first Monday at 3:30.
- The committee looked at what we are federally mandated to do and assessed that we are fulfilling the baseline mandate but want to go further
- The committee has been looking at what an event could look like; the initial goal would be to introduce the CRP to the community and build transparency and accountability.
- Please share your ideas even if you don't have the capacity to be on the committee.

Discussion on Workgroup Timelines

Pierrea W. opened this discussion with the statement that we because we have had so many changes, although Margie C. produces the Annual report, the workgroups themselves haven't produced any reports for years. She expressed that the ideal situation/goal would be for 2026 is for each workgroup to produce a finished report by the end of 2026. She asked each group to talk through their completion timelines, challenges, etc.

YAO- Theresa G. presented this timeline:

- The group met on Dec 16 and planned the next steps.
- The surveys are ready. YAO will need help getting them out.
- The committee has a list of providers serving CFSA older youth and in January members will make selections. They will need other CRP members to join them.
- In February they will contact these sites and make appointments for March and April
- Surveys should be completed by April.
- Data should be completed by June.

Pierrea W. suggested putting in writing what YAO can handle internally and what needs help from external people such as other CRP members.

Margie C responded that the committee needs people to buddy up with members to give surveys in person. Note that this would need to wait until the CPR results are back. She feels that the group has the capacity to do the data analysis. Pierrea W. asked if it is necessary for the workgroup to disseminate the surveys themselves or could they ask contacts at the provider agencies to administer. Theresa G. replied that the group had discussed that but was concerned about accountability; but that it would really be helpful. Andy M. agreed that the committee should discuss this at our next meeting to see if we could give a protocol to providers so they could safely help administer them. Pierrea W. offered that the GAL's at CLC might be able to help. (More was discussed about this at the end of the meeting).

Prevention- Elizabeth M. presented this timeline:

- Updated proposal will be submitted next week
- In February, the group will review CFSA's screening-out policy and issuances and meet with the Ombudsperson's office. They will also complete the survey and request aggregated data from CFSA
- In March, the survey will be disseminated through professional networks and will review aggregated data from CFSA
- In April and May, they will review data and make preliminary findings
- In June they will interview selected volunteers from the target group of mandated reporters.
- In the summer months they will draft their report
- In September, the project and report will be completed

Area needing CRP support: Disseminating surveys

Family Time- Pierrea W. presented this timeline:

- Proposal sent to CFSA on Jan 9
- Plan was changed from a comprehensive analysis across different jurisdictions to a case file review and focus groups. Focus groups will be for birth parents, social workers, Family Court Judges, and GAL's.
- So far no concerns or suggestions from CFSA
- They are working on their focus group draft questions as they wait for CFSA to give case files for review
- They hope to finalize case file review by May 30
- Sept 1 goal to complete project/report.

Pierrea W. suggested the group have a way to connect between groups about needs in between meetings, such as a shared document with what outside support we need. She expressed that it seems like YAO group is first group ready to need additional support.

Public comments: Chrissy Weeks was the only public observer. She commented on the "tight" meeting and that she will be looking forward to working with the panel. Margie C. stated that we can pull her into a workgroup while waiting for MOTA to move forward.

Margie thanked Pierrea W. for running a great meeting and others agreed.

Related to YAO conversation above, Theresa. W shared that she would like to get 18–21-year-olds in one room at one time and get the surveys done instead of going to so many places.

Margie C. and Andy M. agreed that we should talk that through again in the workgroup.

Pierrea W. closed the meeting at 8:30 pm.