



**State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families**

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Taylor N. Hatch**  
Secretary

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**Statewide Youth Advisory Board**

*2026 Kick-Off Meeting*

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

**Minutes Details**

**I. Welcome | Kyle Johnson – Youth Advisor, OCFW - DCF**

- a. Attendance – Youth/Young Adults: 14
  - i. *J. Rodero, M. Funicello, Q. Peeples, J. Guzman, S. Rose, S. Ramos, K. Grant, E. Du Ross, R. Hurley, T. Watkins, A. Cabrera, C. Miller, T. D., B. G.*
- b. Attendance – Support Staff: 11
  - i. *John Watson, Kyle Johnson, Maria Batista, Venus Motley, Davonte Smith, Janessa Collins, Calvin Martin, Yulanda Baldwin, Kara King, Sean Ford, Tamesha Walker*
- c. Introductions & Icebreaker
  - i. *Pick a Zoom Background or an Emoji that represents your current mood. We will popcorn share our: Name, Age, Region, Youth Organization Representing.*

**II. What is the Advisory Board? | John Watson – Legislative Analyst, OQI – DCF**

- a. Youth Subcommittee Background & Achievements
- b. Purpose & Goals of the new Advisory Board.

**III. Goal Setting Activity | Open Discussion**

- a. Why did you want to join the Statewide Youth Advisory Board?
  - i. *Educate caregivers on trauma informed care*
  - ii. *Provide feedback on the administration of psychotropic medication*
  - iii. *Prevent victimization of youth across the state by ensuring they are not placed in unsafe conditions*
  - iv. *Collaboration with FBI and FDLE on HT training for FPs*
- b. What are you most passionate about?
  - i. *Amplifying lived experience voices*
  - ii. *Supportive connections for young people*
  - iii. *Training and education on Florida's Child Welfare System*
  - iv. *Improving mental health outcomes for young people*

**IV. Next Steps | Kyle Johnson – Youth Advisor, OCFW – DCF**

- a. Build out Advisory Board documents and structure, including, but not limited to:
  - i. *Recurring meeting schedule – Kahoot poll*
    - 1. Last Tuesday of the month from 5 PM – 7 PM = (2)
    - 2. Last Wednesday of the month from 4 PM – 6 PM = (3)
    - 3. Last Wednesday of the month from 5 PM – 7 PM = (5)

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4. Last Thursday of the month from 4 PM – 6 PM = (2)
  - ii. *4 Month Training Plan – Feedback:*
    1. Training on roles of child welfare professionals
    2. Overview of recent child welfare legislation
    3. Training on the Maltreatment Index (what constitutes abuse/abandonment/neglect?)
  - iii. *Bylaws Development or Continued Training*
    1. Majority in favor of beginning Bylaws Development
- V. **Closing | Kyle Johnson – Youth Advisor, OCFW – DCF**
  - a. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 25th, 2026**, from 5 PM – 7 PM via Zoom.