



Commissioner
Jaime Masters

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Family and Protective Services Council Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2020 9:00 am
Via online meeting service due to COVID-19

MEETING MINUTES

Council Members Present:

- Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Chair
- Dr. Connie Almeida, Vice Chair
- Matt Kouri
- Liesa Hackett
- Courtney Jones
- Aureka Simpson
- Enrique Mata
- Greg Hamilton
- Omedi “Dee Dee” Cantu Arismendez

The meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Judge Bonnie Hellums, Council Chair.

Moment of silence for the tragedies on September 11, 2001.

Two new council members introduced themselves, Enrique Mata and Courtney Jones.

Roll was called, entire council was present.

Judge Hellums determined that there was a quorum with all council members present.

Judge Hellums recognized staff and special guests.

Commissioner Jaime Masters introduced herself.

Cheryl Gomez introduced the executive team.

The council accepted the February 14, 2020 meeting minutes.

Judge Hellums reaffirmed the date of the next meeting, November 13th, 2020.

Judge Hellums discussed the importance of participating in certain activities on the calendar, ex. Partners in Prevention hosted by PEI as well as APS.

Dr. Connie Almeida spoke on an activity in Fort Bend County, a specialty court for babies and children that have been victims abuse and neglect.

Dee Dee Arismendez spoke on attending an activity by the Wilderness Foundation that allows different agencies to work with clients and give them resources to help them.

Matt Kouri spoke on participating in activities that allowed him to spend time with struggling foster families, nighttime zoom support groups with families from all over the world.

Judge Hellums discussed the 2020-2021 council meeting dates, November 13, 2020, February 12, 2021, May 14, 2021, August 13th, 2021, and November 12th, 2021.

Cheryl Gomez introduced a few more members of the executive team who were present.

Commissioner Masters gave a report on DFPS involvements regarding the lawsuit, PEI, and anti-trafficking initiatives.

Child Protective Services/CPI – Deneen Dryden and Jim Sylvester gave a report on their staff's passion for protecting families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adult Protective Services- Camille Payne gave a report on how APS responded quickly to the COVID-19 virus.

Community Based Care: Deneen Dryden gave a report on the region 3b, 2, 8b and their progress. She spoke on the implementation plan for December 2020, the process evaluation that comes with it, and the systems change efforts. Showed statistics on key stage 1 performance outcomes.

Judge Hellums thanks the presenters for giving their reports.

Commissioner Masters thanked the council for their support.

Judge Hellums introduced Demetrie Mitchell, the chief of staff who explained the preparation for the upcoming legislative session. He then introduced David Kinsey, chief financial officer, who gave updates on the directed budget cuts.

One person from the public testified in front of the council during public comment.

Judge Hellums provided closing remarks and thanked the staff and guests.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

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