

**Cuyahoga County Council**  
**Health, Human Services & Aging Committee**

Dan Brady, Chair  
Yvonne Conwell, Vice Chair

**Minutes**

Thursday, April 28, 2011

1:00 pm.

Council Chambers

- I. Call to Order at 1:00 pm.
- II. Roll Call: Members Present: Dan Brady, Michael Gallagher, Pernel Jones, Jr., Sunny Simon, Yvonne Conwell
- III. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2011 – Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of April 21, 2011 were approved without objection.
- IV. Public Comment - None
- V. Matters referred to Committee from 4/26/11 Council Meeting -NONE
- VI. Presentation – Department of Children and Family Services, Rick Werner, HHS Director and Interim DCFS Director; introduced senior management of Department of Children and Family Services - process looking for new director; starting interview process for director; hoping to have a new administrator in place by the end of June; position is advertised as Administrator of DCFS
  - a. County is always reviewing overrepresentation of African-Americans in system
  - b. Reduction in budget achieved by better managing residential placements; reductions in length of stay and reduced staffing; 217 fewer FTEs than in 2007
  - c. Children in custody has gone down, but levels are increasing a bit, discussion of high-profile cases and economy
    - 1) 2002 – 6000 children in placement; some realization that there were too many in custody
    - 2) Increased efforts to work with neighborhood based services; confidence in those services led to good outcomes;
  - d. Out of County Placement – more out of county foster homes willing to take large numbers of children; e.g., multiple siblings; accounts for why we maintain out of county placements
  - e. **Request for List of Providers**
  - f. 696-KIDS – almost 24,000 calls in 2010
  - g. Should release RFP for placement services soon– hopefully have recommendations to Council by mid end July in enough time to have them finally approved by mid-September; DCFS - inclination is to ask for 15 months with an option to renew for 12 months; may need to have a forum for more Council members to hear about what is planned; suggest a Council of the Whole work session on these contracts

- h. **Aging out issue** – Tammy Chapman-Wagner, Deputy Director children may be in permanent custody may not have a permanent home; DCFS helps them plan for living on their own; DCFS may maintain custody up to 21 if they are cooperating with school and plan; if not, then they are released at 18; partnerships with many colleges and universities over the years; independent living worker works with them; DCFS funding for about 40 college bound students per year, but only \$20 per day so more funding would allow DCFS to provide more assistance – how many have successfully graduated from college? How many graduate from high school and go on to ; do have teen advisors, those who have successfully aged out; graduated - usually 1<sup>st</sup> week in August
- i. **Health and Human Services Levy** – will be up in 2012; advised over the years to put issue on primary election; challenge is that 2012 is a March primary; need to organize for campaign; HHS makes recommendations about need for resources; county action committee is campaign committee; not public money, it is raised specifically for levy; many providers assist in the levy campaign; need to organize for fundraising purposes by this summer.

VII. Adjournment – at 2:20 p.m.