



Families First Community Advisory Board Meeting

September 21st, 2021

Board Members Present:

- Commissioner Clarence Carter (DHS)
- Jamie Stitt: Designee for Commissioner Bob Rolfe (ECD)
- Commissioner Jeff McCord (LWD)
- Ashleigh McFadden: Designee for Commissioner Penny Schwinn (Education)
- Commissioner Lisa Piercey (TDH)
- Senator Bo Watson
- Representative David Hawk
- Representative Bryan Terry
- Jack Bailey
- Dr. Jerry Askew
- Annie Cacheiro
- Brittany Cleveland
- Rachael Corry
- Dr. Emily House
- Executive Jim Mangubat
- Bishop Edward Stephens

Staff Present:

- Trevor Lauri
- Dakota Simpson
- Keisha Thaxton
- Lakecia Peterson
- Gary Wilson
- Cherrell Campbell-Street
- Charles Bryson
- Suzanne Carr
- Marcia McShane
- Krisann Hodges
- Eric Dunn

Board Members

Absent:

- LaTerre Pleasant
- Senator Raumesh Akbari

1:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Carter called the meeting to order once it was ascertained that a quorum was present.

Commissioner Carter provided updates of activity since the last meeting. DHS published guidance and information about the planning grants by the deadline of September 1, 2021. Complimentary messaging material has not been sent out yet. It was determined that the deadline of September 30, 2021, for the planning grant abstracts was too tight. The deadline was extended to October 15. Commissioner Carter introduced Suzanne Carr as Senior Policy Advisor, taking over for Anne Havard. Commissioner Carter initiated introductions from each member of the group.

1:05 p.m. Research Partner Update

Deputy Commissioner Hucks offered an update on the procurement of a research partner. The scope has been defined and the Department hopes to have the RFP out by mid-December 2021 at the latest. It will return to the Department in mid-January and then the evaluation will begin. The evaluation group should consist of an odd number and DHS recommends 5 individuals, 3 from DHS and 2 from the Board. There will need to be a rule exception to have a non-State employee on the evaluation group. The award would be in the Summer of 2022, and the final report due by end of the year 2025.

The Board will select members to serve on the evaluation team at the next meeting. Any interested member should contact Suzanne Carr.

1:17 p.m. Planning Grant Update

The Board discussed the plan for reviewing planning grants submissions. When the submissions have been received, they will likely be divided into groups to keep the review manageable; however, all submissions will be provided to the Board. The Board will evaluate submissions and discuss them at the December 7th meeting.

Senator Watson noted that there is a lot of churn in the community about these grants. Dr. Askew noted that part of the messaging should be that having a partnership of groups will award more points in the selection process than applying solo. Commissioner Carter agreed and noted that the goal of this was to get groups to work together.

1:31 p.m. Planning Grant Training

Keisha Thaxton gave an update on the Planning Grant evaluation process. Keisha gave an overview of what kinds of activities support each of the four goals of the TANF federal legislation and the universal outcomes framework. Dr. House asked if there were best practices we could refer to either nationally, in other states, or even in smaller communities. Commissioner Carter responded that there were not any other places in the country that were taking the kind of approach that the Department is taking.

Keisha gave an overview of what is being requested of each organization or partnership in their application and abstract. Ashleigh McFadden asked if there would be office hours or some guidance for organizations that need help with the scope of the work process. Commissioner asked Marcia McShane to work on a Webinar around this topic.

Keisha gave an overview of the review and scoring process. The phases are 1) mandatory standards review, 2) Board review and 3) final recommendation. The legislation requires applicants to be a non-profit, political subdivision of the state, development district, or Human Resource Agency. While other types of organizations can be a partner, one of these four groups must be the lead applicant. The Board discussed the geographical requirements in the legislation and potential avenues for interested organizations to partner with others.

Rep. Hawk noted that all of the applications hold value, even if they aren't chosen. Commissioner Carter noted that those can be a part of the \$50 million Families First Community Grant process.

2:43 p.m. Concluding Remarks & Next Steps

Commissioner Carter gave an overview of the next steps and key dates.

Rep. Hawk recommended that Dr. House be a member of the five-person review team that will be determined at the next Board meeting.

2:50 p.m. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next Advisory Board meeting will take place on October 19th, 2021.