



Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee

Minutes for December 5, 2017

Room 423/424 of the Legislative Office Building
Senator Tamara Barringer, Presiding

Members in Attendance: Senator Tamara Barringer, Representative Jonathan Jordan, Brian Maness, Kimberly Hale, Kristin O'Connor, The Honorable Joy Jones, Ms. Vickie H. Koch, Dr. Mark Testa, and Ms. Susan R. Whitehead. Staff present were: Tawanda Foster, Wendy Graff, Lisa Wilks, and Deborah Landry. Devon Karst and Emma King served as Committee Clerks.

Senator Tamara Barringer welcomed the members of the Committee and guests. She thanked the Sergeant-At-Arms for serving. She also thanked Representative Jordan as her Co-chairman and asked if there were any comments she wished to make. At that time, they took minutes and introductions from all committee members.

Senator Barringer then recognized Kimberly Best from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to provide a Permanency Innovation Initiative Financial Performance Report. Senator Barringer opened up the floor for questions. No questions were asked. See Attachment I.

Next Senator Barringer recognized Matt Anderson from the Children's Home Society. He presented the current figures on the Family Finding Performance, Child-Specific Recruitment and Training measures.

Dr. Mark Testa commended the work of this committee and is interested in the future of Family Finding and believes KinGap work will be very positive. He further commented that this work will save the state a significant amount of money.

Ms. Koch also commended on Kinship care and provided a personal narrative.

Senator Barringer thanked everyone for their words and then recognized Annie Smith who had questions regarding speeding up the process for referrals. Senator Barringer

recognized Mr. Anderson to respond. Mr. Anderson said the main issue was the timeline for termination of parental rights in the court system.

Ms. Kristen O'Connor was recognized. Ms. O'Connor asked how the \$750,000 non-recurring funds were to be allocated. Mr. Anderson responded that new money was being allocated to child specific recruitment specialists. Ms. O'Connor was recognized for a follow-up question; she asked which DSS Counties were resistant to the programing and how DSS could help. Mr. Anderson said he could follow up on counties regarding training. Debra Landry with Financial Research clarified numbers for reallocation. See Attachment II.

Senator Barringer then recognized Erin Connor from NC LINKS Program to present on Youth Villages budget numbers.

Senator Barringer opened the floor for questions. Ms. O'Connor asked what was being done to increase percentage of budget spent. It was determined Ms. Annie Smith of Youth Villages would address this in her presentation. See Attachment III.

Senator Barringer recognized Annie Smith, State Director of Community-Based Programs of Youth Villages.

Ms. Smith began her presentation by answering Ms. O'Connor's question; educating staff on what the money is for and helping them think beyond the basics was her response.

Senator Barringer commented on how she was impressed with how intentional Children's Home Society and Youth Villages is very intentional in how they spend their money.

Ms. Smith continued with her presentation and gave an overview of Youth Villages YV-Set, as well as the benefits and future of the program. See Attachment IV.

Senator Barringer opened the floor for questions and asked the first question regarding what YV does to address children who are about to age out of the system. Ms. Smith responded said they work with their staff to make sure they are educated on informing the youth. Ms. Erin Connor was recognized, and commented that state, counties, and other partnerships work together to provide information to counties regarding availability of services.

Ms. Kim Hale was recognized and asked about gaps in services on the maps. Ms. Smith responded with an overview of Youth Villages' Initial Goals and structure, and mentioned they are working on the next steps in covering more areas.

Ms. Connor had a follow up to Senator Barringer's previous question and commented on transitional plans for youth ages 14 and older in the foster care system. Their options for when they turn 18 are reviewed at that time.

Senator Barringer then addressed the committee for any final topics to be raised. None were given by the committee.

Senator Barringer then recognized Judge Rusty Duke for his work on the committee, as this was his last meeting. She welcomed Judge Jones.

Senator Barringer informed the committee that the next meeting would be sometime before May, and thanked the members and guests for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40.

Respectively submitted by: Devon Karst.