

Office of the Child Advocate  
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 30, 2021  
1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

**Council Members or Designees Present:**

Maria Mossaides, The Child Advocate, Chair  
Secretary Marylou Sudders (EOHHS)  
Secretary James Peyser (EOE)  
Undersecretary Elizabeth Denniston (EOHHS)  
Undersecretary Ann Reale (EOE)  
The Honorable Amy Nechtem, Juvenile Court  
Brian Pariser, designee of The Honorable John D. Casey, Probate and Family Court  
Commissioner Linda Spears (DCF)  
Commissioner Jane F. Ryder (DDS)  
Commissioner Brooke Doyle (DMH)  
Commissioner Amy Kershaw (DTA)  
Commissioner Peter Forbes (DYS)  
Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy (EEC)  
Commissioner Edward Dolan (MPS)  
Melissa Dowler, designee of Commissioner Opeoluwa Sotonwa (MCDHH)  
Deputy Commissioner Michele Cristello (DOR Child Support Enforcement Agency)  
Deputy Chief Counsel Michael Dsida (CPCS Children and Family Law Division)  
Executive Director Suzin Bartley (CT)

**OCA Staff:**

Jessie Brunelle  
Jean Clements  
Crissy Goldman  
Janice Neiman  
Christine Palladino-Downs  
Melissa Threadgill

**Meeting Commenced:**

Ms. Mossaides announced at 1:30 p.m. that the meeting would commence in a few minutes allowing for more attendees to access the Zoom virtual meeting platform online.

**Welcome and Introduction from the Child Advocate:**

Maria Mossaides welcomed the attendees to the Office of the Child Advocate's 2021 annual Advisory Council meeting, held as a virtual meeting via Zoom. She acknowledged the attendance of council members and designees and reviewed the agenda.

**FY2021 Highlights:**

Director of Juvenile Justice Initiatives Melissa Threadgill  
Director of Policy and Legal Counsel Crissy Goldman  
Legislative and Communications Director Jessie Brunelle  
Senior Director of Quality Assurance Christine Palladino-Downs

**Approval of Draft Minutes:**

Ms. Mossaides asked whether any Board members who were in attendance at the November 2020 annual meeting had any comments or corrections to the draft minutes. Hearing none, Ms. Mossaides asked for any abstentions or objections; Marylou Sudders and Amy Kershaw abstained. Acknowledging that a quorum of members were present and indicated no objections, the draft minutes of the November 16, 2020 annual Advisory Council meeting were approved.

**Thank you and Closing from the Child Advocate:**

Ms. Mossaides thanked everyone for their time and noted that the meeting was finishing ahead of schedule.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.