

**TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHILD WELFARE BOARDS, INC.**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**  
**AUGUST 23, 2016**  
**5:00PM MINUTES**

President David Cory and Advocacy Committee Chair, Janet Stansbury called to order the meeting of the Executive Committee and the Advocacy Committee. Those participating were Jeanne Stamp, Janet Stansbury, Joel Levine, David Cory, Shannon Ireland, Estella Olguin, Sandy Hilliard, and Catherine Earley.

Janet Stansbury began the meeting by stating that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Child Protection Roundtable's Legislative Priorities for the 85th Session and make a decision on whether to give our support or not. After some discussion, it was decided that we would review each point, discuss, and make a decision on each point. There was spirited discussion involving all of the points. Listed below are the points and the group's consensus:

**Maintain a 4 year degree as a minimum for caseworkers.**  
**VOTE YES.**

*Getting to higher salaries won't happen by lowering the job requirements, and could be a slippery slope to lower salaries, would like to see relevant degrees required.*

**Increasing records retention timeframes on cases.**  
**UNDECIDED.**

*More information needed on how long, for which cases, question whether this is a Legislative or Regulatory function.*

**Mandating that Mental Health Professionals who are treating abused children have training on trauma.**  
**VOTE YES.**

Would support with funding.

**Addressing incongruous policies between RCCL and CPS investigations by shifting abuse/neglect investigations away from the RCCL to CPS.**  
**VOTE NO.**

*To avoid CPS conflict of interest, RCCL should investigate with better forensic training and consistent investigation standards and abuse/neglect definitions.*

**Requiring the placement proximity (50 mi.) be sought for all children in foster care except for children in the Adoption Stage or excluding adoptive placements.**  
**VOTE NO.**

*This should be administratively supported best practice but it is impractical to legislatively mandate when resources are not available.*

**Assigning an attorney to all children in PMC.**  
**VOTE YES.**

*Would support enlarging this to include a guardian ad litem and attaching funding.*

**Involve doctors and medical staff in the placement process, and require that all children entering care see a doctor within a specified time frame.**  
**VOTE NO.**

*Already done within 30 days.*

**CPA caseworkers should have more access to the biological family for case planning, treatment, and supportive services for children, and there should be greater contact between foster families and bio families when it is safe and appropriate.**

**VOTE NO.**

*This is good policy and best practice, and should be done administratively, but not legislatively.*

**Case management services for kids who have aged out of care should extend to 25.**

**VOTE YES.**

*IF accompanied by funding request.*

**Identify and remove barriers for youth in care to get driver's licenses and/or other forms of identification.**

**VOTE YES.**

*Can we offer more detail on barriers?*

**Education vouchers are only available for certain youth who meet qualifications, and should be awarded to non-eligible youth on a case by case basis in certain instances by the Commissioner.**

**VOTE YES.**

*Adding flexibility for exceptions to the complexity of CPS policy is a good thing.*

**Keep children on STAR Health up until the time of their adoption and beyond. As long as a child is eligible for Medicaid, then Superior STAR health should remain the provider if a child has been in the foster care system.**

**VOTE YES.**

*This should help avoid gaps in the services.*

**The Department should be required by statute to develop a consistent and transparent method or determine caseload sizes.**

**UNDECIDED.**

**In order to meet caseload goals, the Department should incentivize optimal caseload sizes as a way of reducing the high numbers currently being carried by caseworkers.**

**UNDECIDED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.

Karen Cook  
Secretary