



Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

December 13, 2019

Dear Birth, Foster or Adoptive Parent, and Kinship Caregiver:

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is developing a Parent Advisory Board (PAB) consisting of birth, foster (kin and non-relative) and adoptive parents, and kinship caregivers. We hope to hold our first meeting in February 2020.

The purpose of the OCFS Parent Advisory Board is to give a voice to:

- Parents/caregivers who are involved in the child welfare system
- Foster parents (kin and non-relative) who are supporting and caring for a child in foster care
- Adoptive parents who have adopted a child who was in foster care
- Kinship caregivers who are caring for a relative's child

The goal is for members to provide feedback on their experiences with the child welfare system and make recommendations to the Office of Children and Family Services for improving the system, and implementing state and federal initiatives to improve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families.

Membership

- The Parent Advisory Board (PAB) will consist of no more than 15 members
- All members must have currently or previously been involved with child welfare as parents, kin/foster parents or adoptive parents, or caring for a relative's child
- Membership will include representation from each region of the state, and reflect the constellation of families involved in child welfare
- Members are appointed for a three-year term

PAB Membership Criteria

- Completion of membership application
- Complete and pass state and federal background checks
- Ability to communicate by email and have on-line access
- Ability to travel to and participate in face-to-face meetings and conference calls as designated by the members
- Ability to communicate and willingness to promote the benefit of parent voice in system reform and to serve as a representative parent voice in these efforts
- Willingness to share learning with colleagues and stakeholders from your jurisdiction

Attached, please find the Parent Advisory Board Membership Application. Completed applications must be received by January 24, 2020, and selected members will be notified by email/mail. PAB members are asked to serve a three year commitment and will be compensated for their time and travel. Lodging will also be provided for members who reside more than three hours from the Albany area.

Should you have any questions, please contact Renee Hallock at 518-474-4726, or by email at Renee.Hallock@ocfs.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Ogundimu", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Ghartey Ogundimu
Deputy Commissioner
Child Welfare and Community Services

cc: Renee Hallock, Associate Commissioner

attachment