

# ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

## JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

Minutes of the Meeting  
March 25, 2022  
9:00 A.M., SHR 109

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:  
<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2022031102>

### Members Present:

Senator Nancy Barto, Co-Chair  
Senator Kelly Townsend

Representative Joanne Osborne, Co-Chair  
Representative Kelli Butler  
Representative Gail Griffin

### Members Excused:

Senator Victoria Steele

### Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst  
Maelinn Chow, Senate Assistant Research Analyst  
Ahjahna Graham, House Research Analyst

Co-Chair Barto called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and attendance was noted.

## INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Senator Barto asked that the Members introduce themselves.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Office of the Auditor General

Jeff Gove, Deputy Director, Performance Audit Division, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Department of Child Safety" (Attachment A) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Gove distributed handouts entitled "Region and section scorecards" (Attachment B) and "Summary of caseload calculations steps" (Attachment C). Mr. Gove answered questions posed by the Committee.

### Department of Child Safety

Mike Faust, Director, Department of Child Safety, discussed the Auditor General's report and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Shalom Jacobs, Assistant Deputy Director, Department of Child Safety, answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Faust distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the Department of Child Safety" (Attachment D) and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

### **Foster Care Review Board Guardian System Impact**

**Caroline Lutt-Owens, Director, Dependent Children's Services, Administrative Office of the Courts**, gave an overview of the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) and the implementation and the effectiveness of the Guardian System.

Ms. Lutt-Owens discussed problems with achieving full reviews for the FCRB and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**Bruce Brannan, Board Member, Foster Care Review Board**, discussed the issues of incomplete information and caseworkers' attendance in the review process. Mr. Brannan answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Lutt-Owens answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Faust answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Lutt-Owens answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Faust answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Lutt-Owens answered additional questions posed by the Committee

Mr. Brannan answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Barto thanked the Committee for their time and suggested a presentation of the Guardian system to see how it works.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Gardner  
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)