

## Families First Community Advisory Board Meeting

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July 17, 2025

### **Board Members Present:**

- Commissioner Clarence Carter (DHS)
- Ashleigh McFadden; Designee for Commissioner Lizzette Reynolds (Education)
- Jamie Stitt; Designee for Commissioner Stuart McWhorter (ECD)
- Jack Bailey
- Dr. Jerry Askew
- Rachael Corry
- Bishop Edward Stephens
- Annie Cacheiro

### **Staff Present:**

- Callon Baggett
- Shannon Rosedale
- Suzanne Carr
- Gary Wilson
- Lakecia Peterson
- Trevor Lauri
- Devin Stone
- Rebecca Walker
- Crystal Barnell

### **Board Members**

#### **Absent:**

- Interim Commissioner John Dunn (TDH)
- Commissioner Denice Thomas (DLWD)
- Leader Raumesh Akbari
- Chairman Bryan Terry
- Chairman Bo Watson
- Chairman David Hawk
- Elizabeth Fournet
- Frank Lawrence
- Steven Gentile
- Executive Jim Mangubat
- Brittany Cleveland

### **1:00 PM – Welcome and Commissioner’s Opening Remarks**

Commissioner Carter called the meeting to order and welcomed board members. He emphasized the national significance of Tennessee’s Families First pilot efforts and framed the work as one of the most transformational safety net initiatives since the 1996 creation of TANF. He reiterated the Board’s role in contributing to innovative human services design.

### **1:10 PM – PCG Update on Enrollment and Technical Assistance**

Jessica White (PCG) provided updates on enrollment and technical assistance.

- Over 8,500 baseline assessments have been completed.
- Weekly office hours, monthly check-ins, and ad hoc training sessions continue.
- Jessica will follow up with data on the number of individuals served across the 8,528 households.
- Commissioner Carter raised a question about how many participants were previously enrolled in TANF before the pilot; PCG and DHS will explore whether data sharing agreements allow this analysis.

### **1:30 PM – MEF & Urban Institute Evaluation Update**

Tatiana Schaefer (MEF) and Erika Tyagi (Urban Institute) provided evaluation updates:

- MEF is progressing in its implementation, cost, and impact studies.
- The final cross-site report is due in 2026.
- Survey efforts and dashboard improvements are underway.
- Board members emphasized the need to clearly communicate outcomes to legislators. Staff committed to sharing links and published data directly.

### **1:50 PM – Pilot Data Presentation: Martha O’Brien Center (Our Chance TN)**

Kent Miller presented impressive internal evaluation results:

- Over 1,100 families served (goal: 900).
- Average family income increase: \$19,000.
- Two-thirds of participants improved in family stability.
- For every \$1 of client assistance, families saw \$2.75 in income increase.
- High-intensity coaching showed stronger outcomes vs. low-intensity pathways.

### **2:20 PM – Final Comments and Adjournment**

Commissioner Carter closed by acknowledging the Board’s role in advancing a bold vision for Tennessee’s safety net. He thanked members for their time and insights and emphasized the importance of courageous decision-making based on what the data shows.