**Council on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

**December 8, 2014**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Toni Buxton, DCFS

Chris Mayers, LDE

Stacy Mills, Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs

Mary Norris, DHH

Nikita Parker, Representative Barrow

Winona LeJeune, Citizen

Danna Spayde, Citizen

1. Meeting called to Order
2. Welcome & Introductions

* Ms. Nikita Parker attended representing Rep. Barrow

1. Quorum not established; Reading and Acceptance of the prior meetings’ minutes was deferred.
2. Moving Forward

* **Future of the Council**
  + Questions were raised by the group as to what to do next regarding the lack of participation and the failure of the Council to achieve quorum. Toni Buxton agreed to discuss the lack of participation with the DCFS Legislative Aide to get his thoughts on how the Council should proceed.
* **Funding of Council and the Grandparent’s organization**
  + There is a need for money to fund Council projects and to garner more support
  + Danna Spayde shared the Grandparents’ organization has several small grants and they are applying for more. The annual conference is scheduled for March 27, 2015. The group is interested in fund-raising and working on toys for grandchildren
* **Information shar**ing to increase awareness and educate
  + Winona LeJeune shared educators are not aware of support groups. It would be useful to develop a pamphlet for educators, counselors, and physicians to pass along to those they work with.
  + The pamphlet could be a step-by-step document, like Grandparenting: Raising Grandchildren 101. The pamphlet could be used as an insert in the bags for the conference.
* **Additional Efforts to Increase Viability, Awareness and Participation**
  + Send information (agenda and minutes) out in email
  + Schedule more meetings
  + Send meeting announcements as an appointment
  + Look into setting by-laws
  + Request DCFS include organization in its budget to fund cost of pamphlet, publication & distribution
  + Assign someone to follow-through on details
  + Spread the word of the Council across the state
  + Deadline for Fiscal Session is March 2015
  + Develop website within DCFS webpage
  + Get the pamphlet from the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group and finalize the fact sheet and send to Senator Barrow’s office.

**Dates to Remember:**

1. **Quarterly Meetings (1st Tuesday of the Month)**

**February 3, 2015**

**May 5, 2015**

**August 4, 2015**

**November 3, 2015**

1. **Budget meetings are in January**