

This communication is being sent to you and written with the hopes that my experiences and past involvement with Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) will convince this legislative body that an oversight committee is not only needed but completely necessary in order to have a checks and balance for an agency that has run carte blanche status and used the system as a means to break up the families of people of color.

As a person of colour and directly impacted by DCF an oversight committee, at the time of my involvement, would have negated any kind of false accusations or allegations that were levelled against me with the proper investigation; unfortunately, that proper investigation never occurred. If an oversight committee were in place they could have intervened. This oversight committee could have instructed DCF to adhere and conform to the Law as well as the policies and procedures which govern them.

The facts of my case are simple and plain; we were coerced, lied to, manipulated, discriminated against, both on a cultural and religious level and threatened with continued DCF involvement if we did not sign certain documents. Furthermore, my wife's emotional reaction to finding out my youngest step daughter was sexually accosted by a family member was used against her in a hearing.

There were several occasions that email correspondence between DCF case workers and myself went unanswered and any agreed upon issues were in time discarded and disregarded per instructed by DCF Attorney Wendy Burroughs.

The above issues are just the tip of the iceberg with my involvement with DCF. Since involvement with DCF in 2018 the case plan has always been reunification or return to parent; unfortunately, we never, in all that time received a home visit by DCF case workers to see, if in actuality, our home with safe, secure and furnished according to law and their policy and procedures, they continuously cited safety concerns when in fact there were no safety issues whatsoever to their person.

Normally, There would be a concurrent case plan, one for reunification and the other for termination of parental rights; in our case, there was never a concurrent case plan it was always return to parent or reunification.

I could go into greater detail of the mistreatment and systemic racism that Plagued us, however, I offer this, speak to me and i can delineate for you all the occasions that DCF workers (lisa Adukonis, Rachel Keller and Justine McNeice) and there supervisors conspired to keep our children from us. They even lied to the court about making up visits.

I hope that these few words convey how abusive and uncontrolled DCF treated us and the trauma inflicted on my entire family.

In Resolute Faith

Cèsar Rodriguez Abu Hassan