



State Advisory Board Meeting

September 13, 2022

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Board members present: Chair Belva Dorsey (R8), Vice Chair DeLaine Hunter (R1), Secretary Shondeana Morris (R14), Dr. Fran Chastain (R2), Randel Hambrick (R3), Octavia Fugerson (R5), Nancy White (R6), Travis Niblett (R9), Tommy Hill (R10), Laci Gillis Tippins (R11), Allyson Christianson (R12), Meredith Holt (R13), Virgil Costley (AL), Jennifer Shinpoch (AL), Judy Manning (AL), JaNice VanNess (AL), Susie Weller (AL)

Board members absent: Emily Brantley (AL), Deke Copenhaver (R7)

Other attendees:

DHS staff: LaMarva Ivory, Ramirez Evans, Ann Burris, Mary Havick, Melody DeBussey, Emma McCullough, Jackie Tate, Donna Yeomans, Shay Thornton, Stacey Barfield, Kylie Winton, Elizabeth Green, Wesley Merritt, LaCharn Dennard, Bryan Horn, Sekema Harris Harmon, Johnanna Weathers, Marva Reed, Shannon Fields, Kelly Beasley, Danny Nuckolls, Shelia Dease-Dinkins, Kimberly Denson, Carmen Callaway, Shaun Johnson, Maureen Williams, Lon Roberts, Latisha Flesher

-
- Welcome and Introductions, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair B. Dorsey. Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. Quorum met.
 - Motion to approve today's agenda. Moved by Travis Niblett and seconded by Nancy White. All in favor. Approved.
 - Motion for approval of June 22, 2022, minutes. Moved by DeLaine Hunter and seconded by Tommy Hill. All in favor. Approved.
 - Presentation by Mary Havick, DHS Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare
 - Child Welfare Overview
 - DFCS data is available on demand
 - <https://dhs.georgia.gov/organization/about/dhs-data>
 - Intakes Received by Year
 - Intakes Open over 8 Days
 - ISA Response Times
 - Family Support Time Open
 - Investigations Time Open
 - Investigations, Percent Substantiated and Total Count
 - Safety Resources and Voluntary Kinship Arrangements (Combined)
 - Family Preservation Stages Open by Year
 - Family Preservation Time Open

- Children in Custody by Year
 - Every Child Every Month FFY 2022 Scorecard
 - Georgia Foster Episodes Less than 3 Months, by Removal Month
 - Reunifications (2017-2021)
 - Adoptions by Year
 - Placement Support
 - Decrease Hoteling
 - Complex Care Coordinator position
 - Daily tracking spreadsheet
 - PASS calls with all districts
 - Dashboard
 - Increase Family Caregivers
 - Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign
 - mCase mobile solutions pilot
 - Family First Update
- Presentation by Melody DeBussey, DHS Deputy Commissioner, OFI
 - OFI Overview
 - Unduplicated Families Served Across All Programs
 - Caseload Size
 - Front Line Staffing Levels
 - Percent of Population receiving SNAP
 - SNAP Issuance
 - SNAP Families
 - SNAP Applications Received by Date and Submission Mode
 - SNAP Applications and Renewals Processed
 - SNAP ABAWDs
 - Active Medical Assistance Families
 - Total Medical Assistance Applications Processed
 - TANF Issuance
 - TANF Work Mandatory vs Payee Only Cases
 - TANF Applications Approved and Denied
 - Presentation by Ann Burris, DHS Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources
 - HR Overview
 - FY22 DFCS Workforce Snapshot
 - FY22 Overall DFCS Turnover
 - Social Services Specialists
 - Social Services Specialists Supervisors
 - Economic Support Specialists
 - Economic Support Specialists
 - DFCS Vacancies
 - Voluntary Turnover Exit Survey
 - Top Reasons Cited
 - Best things about your experience
 - Worst things about your experience
 - DFCS Time to Offer

- Retention Initiatives
- Recruitment Initiatives
- Engagement

- Board Discussion
 - Term Expirations- If you would like to roll off the Board, please email Emma McCullough before October 31st.
 - Elections- Please email Emma McCullough nominations before September 30th
 - DeLaine Hunter nominated Meredith Holt for Secretary
- Committee Reports
 - Regional Trends Committee
 - Has met twice
 - Committee goals: foster parent recruitment, partner communication and collaboration
 - Community Relations Committee
 - Topics of interest: Building relationships with Universities, Colleges, High Schools, marketing and communication, appropriate pay for positions
 - OFI Committee
 - Has been working with DeLaine Hunter, former Chair
 - Need to recruit more members
 - More specific data on grandparents who are parenting their grandchildren
 - More info on medicaid eligibility
 - Executive Committee
 - Bylaw Amendments
 - Amendment to extend term limit to three consecutive years instead of 2
 - Amendment to formalize order of succession
 - Amendment to formalize communication protocol for concerns
- Board Member Regional Reports
 - R1- Kinship Care Month, GPHSA Conference- Region 1 basket raised the most money, Gordon County DFCS Board was named Board of the Year, 71 children enter foster care during August
 - R2 – Trying to retain and hire staff, Employee received 2 awards from the Commissioner’s staff awards
 - R3 – Paulding and Douglas piloting mCase, newly formed adoption unit, hiring needs
 - R6 – Toys for Tots provided bags for every foster child in Region 6, hired County Directors
 - R8 – Muscogee County had a backpack giveaway with school supplies for children in care, Sumter County received backpacks as well, 16 counties in Region 8 are holding meet and greets with law enforcement, staff vacancies
 - R9 – Started internal case quality review process, struggling with qualified applicants, Regional Director position opening
 - R10 – New Region Director, progress with hiring and filling positions, spotlighted for State Kinship Program
 - R11 – Progress with Court Orders, few counties which are fully staffed, still several counties that are not, challenges with children involving both DFCS and DJJ

- R12 – Needs with leadership vacancies, rebuilding relationships between families and the Department, HR work to expedite onboarding process, Chatham County developing Restoration Savannah, Trunk or Treat October 28th for foster children and families
 - R13 – Region Advisory Meeting, Rental Cars without gas cards for workers-waiting for reimbursement, building more support for staff based on exit survey responses
 - R14 – Deputy Director of DeKalb County DFCS shoutout, Saturday September 24th DFCS with CASA school supply drop off, adoption numbers are lower than this time last year
-
- Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Dorsey

 - Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.