

## DFCS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2023

**Board members present:** Chair Belva Dorsey, Vice Chair Shondeana Morris, Secretary Meredith Holt, Randel Hambrick, Octavia Fugerson, Nancy White, Deke Copenhaver, Tommy Hill, Judy Manning, JaNice VanNess, Jennifer Shinpoch, Virgil Costley

**Board members absent:** Fran Chastain, Travis Niblett, Laci Tippins, Allyson Christianson, Susie Weller

**DHS staff:** Commissioner Candice Broce, Craig Foster, Christopher Apsey, LaMarva Ivory, Mary Havick, John Hallman, Kylie Winton, Bryan Horn, Jackie Tate, Emma McCullough, Emily Hatchett, Ramirez Evans, Chuck Inman, Ann Burris, Demetrius Taylor, Melissa Barwick, Glenene Lanier, Sekema Harmon, Angela Molden, Brooke Shaddix, LaSondra Howard-Boddie, Tina Murphy, Mona Jackson, Chhay Kong, Shana Lewis, Kimberly Denson, Maureen Williams, Lacharn Dennard, Kelly Beasley, Star Allen, Jennifer Eaby, Benjamin Arbise, Salena Perry, Chantel Evans, Kaylan Storey, Latisha Fletcher, Giana Herndon, Karla Wells, Jana Drinkard, Melanie Curylo, Olinda Haywood, Brandon Gomez, Lon Roberts, Monica Cunningham, Kelvin Frazier, Shay Thornton, Shaun Johnson, Julie Walters, Larry Sloan, Tommy Williams, Trevor Yanken, Marva Reed, NuTrelle Toodle, Audrey Brannen, Johanna Weathers, Ashley Parham, Dawn Criss, Holly Vaeth, Sujata Tah, Dana Carroll, Jessica Haigler, Shannon Fields

- Welcome and Introductions, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair Dorsey. Meeting called to order at 1 p.m. Quorum met.
- Motion to approve agenda. Motion by Deke Copenhaver. Second by Nancy White. All in favor. Approved.
- Motion to approve minutes from May 17, 2023, meeting. Motion by Shondeana Morris. Second by Randel Hambrick. All in favor. Approved.

Presentation by Mary Havick, Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare

- Child Welfare Overview
  - CW Data
    - Intakes Received in SFY 23:125,290
    - Open Family Support Stages: 938 in June 2023
    - Open Investigations: 2011 in June 2023
    - Open Family Preservation Stages: 2550 in June 2023
    - Foster Children/Youth in Custody on Last Day of Month in June 2023
      - 0-17: 10,712
      - 18-22: 635
    - Children in custody in SFY 23: 16,053
    - Adoptions in SFY 23: 1,281
  - Celebration of Excellence in June 2023
    - honored 266 youth who graduated from high school, vocational school, and college
  - The mCase Application will be pushed to DHS issued Samsung phones.
    - Targeting a release of this by end of September

Presentation by John Hallman, Deputy Commissioner, OFI

- OFI Data July 2023
  - Unduplicated Families Served Across All Programs: 1,546,589

- Caseload Size: 981
- Frontline Staffing Levels: 1,576
- SNAP issuance totaled \$268,216,814. The average issuance per family was \$371.
- SNAP Families: Total SNAP Families 722,899
- 57,677 SNAP applications and 130,409 renewals were processed
- 1,123,373 active Medical Assistance families
- 149,912 Medical Assistance applications were processed
- TANF issuance totaled \$1,230,452 in July 2023. The average issuance per family was \$264.
- 4,654 TANF families
- TANF Applications Approved and Denied: 3,848 TANF applications were processed

#### Advisory Board Bylaws Committee Report

- Bylaws Committee met on June 28, 2023 and discussed proposed language. Voted 4-1 in favor for the presented language.

#### DFCS Advisory Board Business

- Motion to Approve Proposed Bylaw Amendment- Addition of Section 6 into Article III. Motion by Shondeana Morris. Second by Meredith Holt.
- Six members voted on Bylaw Amendment- 5 in favor. 1 opposed. The amendment is approved.

#### Advisory Board Regional Trends Committee Report

- Met monthly. Currently looking at data on foster care trends in the state. No recommendations at this time.

#### Advisory Board Member Regional Reports

- R3: All counties have law enforcement meet and greets schedule to strengthen partner relationship. Including seniors and volunteers has helped fill holes by vacancies and is building a workforce pipeline. Positive feedback on increasing supports for foster parents. 2 employees won awards. Some new employees say 3-week training is overwhelming.
- R5: No report.
- R6: Met last week, awaiting minutes, no report.
- R7: Meeting on 9/5, no report.
- R8: June National Reunification Month celebration occurred and recognized a family's reunification journey. Family Day for foster caregivers and children at Callaway Gardens, hosted by the region and its partners, had about 100 attendees. Muscogee DFCS hosted backpack giveaway for DFCS involved families with local nonprofit Boyz 2 Men. All working on plans for National Adoption Month in November.
- R10: No report.
- R13: Regional Advisory Board met last week. Excited about updates in technology. Seeing positive effects of retention efforts in staff and leadership. Concerns about training and travel restrictions.

- R14: Preparing for national adoption month.
- At-Large, Jennifer Shinpoch: Invited to attend Restoration Rome's Trust Based Relational Intervention Practitioner Training next week.

#### New Business

- New officers will be inducted in January. Currently have a rolling succession plan, but nominations will be taken for all offices.
- Call for Nomination for Secretary. Nominations will be accepted until September 29 via email. No nominations at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.