**DHS Board and DFCS State Advisory Board Meeting**

December 1, 2022

Teams Live Event

**Board members present:** Chair Belva Dorsey (R8), Vice Chair DeLaine Hunter (R1), Secretary Shondeana Morris (R14), Susie Weller (AL), Laci Tippins (R11), Deke Copenhaver (R7) Meredith Holt (R13), Travis Niblett (R9), Virgil Costley (AL), Nancy White (R6), Octavia Fugerson (R5), Tommy Hill (R10), Judy Manning (AL), Jennifer Shinpoch (AL), Randel Hambrick (R3)

**Board members absent:** Emily Brantley (AL), Dr. Fran Chastain (R2), JaNice VanNess (AL), Allyson Christianson (12), Vacant (R4)

**DHS staff:** Commissioner Candice Broce, Craig Foster, Matt Krull, LaMarva Ivory, Kylie Winton, Bryan Horn, Ann Burris, Sunny Patel, Mary Havick, Emma McCullough, Donna Yeomans, Jackie Tate, Melody DeBussey, MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Ashley Forbes, Matt Wosotowsky, Robin Herron, Chuck Inman, Sarah Hurst, Ellen Brown, Demetrius Taylor, Lee Biggar, Kelly Thompson, Chantel Evans, Samantha Adams, Scott Rogers, Kirk Chaney

* Welcome and Introductions, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair B. Dorsey. Meeting called to order at 10:20 a.m. Quorum met.
* Motion to approve today’s agenda. Moved by Deke Copenhaver and seconded by Travis Niblett. All in favor. Approved.

Presentation by MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Aging Services

* + Staff updates
    - New Access to Services Manager
    - Added a third Regional Coordinator position
    - Created a new Title III-C & D Manager position
    - Additional contract position added to Business Ops team
    - Dementia Team Lead: Staci Hannah
  + Adult Protective Services​
    - Caseload ratio/budgeted position = 1/29
  + Public Guardianship Office
    - Caseload ratio/budgeted position =1/27
  + Georgia SHIP Medicare Open Enrollment​
    - October 15 – December 7, 2022
  + Annual Gift Drive Deliveries
    - Able to fulfill all the wish lists for our vulnerable Georgians under guardianship for the holidays

Presentation by Ashley Forbes, Deputy Director of Operations, Child Support Services

* + Program Data​
    - Total offices: 55 local offices excluding state, region and specialty/hub offices​
    - Total positions: 1,172
    - Total Caseload for FFY 2022: 328,399
  + Key Accomplishments
    - Paternity Establishment Percentage​: Exceeded goal – finishing at 92.66%
    - Federal Data Reliability Audit​: Passed all lines of audit​
    - e-Filing: Continuing e-Filing roll out
    - Self-Service Options​: Increased customer usage​

Presentation by Mary Havick, DHS Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare

* Child Welfare Overview
  + - CW Data
      * Open Intakes: 3,711 in September 2022
      * Open Family Support Stages: 2,765 in September 2022
      * Open Investigations: 3,785 in September 2022
      * Open Family Preservation Stages: 2,854 in September 2022
      * Children in Family Preservation: 7,899 in September 2022
      * Open Voluntary Kinship Arrangements and Safety Resources (Children) in September 2022
        + 235 Voluntary Kinship Arrangements
        + 9 Safety Resources
      * Foster Children/Youth in Custody on Last Day of Month in September 2022
        + 0-17: 10,921
        + 18-22: 643
      * Children Adopted by Month: 88 in August of 2022
      * Deborah Burrus Germany received a Nation Adoption Excellence Award
      * Statewide Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign has launched
      * Foster Parent retention survey is moving to the contracting phase

Presentation by Melody DeBussey, DHS Deputy Commissioner, OFI

* + - OFI Data
      * Unduplicated Families Served Across All Programs: 1,468,167 Active Unduplicated Families in October 2022
      * Caseload Size: Average Caseload Size in October was 1,043
      * Frontline Staffing Levels: Frontline Staffing level processing cases was 1,408 in October
      * SNAP Issuances: SNAP Issuance in October was $281,482,017. Average issuance per family was $379
      * SNAP Families: Total SNAP Families in October was 742,584
      * SNAP Applications and Renewals Processed: SNAP applications processed in October was 68,817 and renewals processed was 83,222
      * Active Medical Assistance Families: Active Medical Assistance families in October was 1,127,144
      * Total Medical Assistance Applications Processed: Total Medical Assistance Applications processed in October was 88,818
      * TANF Issuance: TANF Issuance in October was $1,460,232. Average issuance per family was $262.
      * TANF Work Mandatory vs Payee Only Cases: Total TANF Families in October was 5,578
      * TANF Applications Approved and Denied: Total TANF Applications processed in October was 4,774

DHS Rule Change Presentation Given to DHS Board by Pamela Carr Cosby, Deputy General Counsel

* Rule change procedure
  + Board considers motion to public proposed rule
  + 30-Day public comment period
  + Public hearing
  + Motion for final adoption of proposed rule
  + Send final rule to Secretary of State
* Initial Approval – Child Placing Agencies
  + Rule published December 5 – January 4
  + Public Hearing January 4
* Request to Board
  + Motion to publish notice of rulemaking

Jackson Spalding Update by Monica Corbett and Liz James

* + Jackson Spalding team working on amplifying message of Medicaid coverage in Georgia through Medicaid Unwinding Campaign
  + Critical Audiences: Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids’ Members, Partners & Ambassadors, Small-Town & Rural Communities, Trusted Advisors
  + Preliminary Results: 133% Increase in email, Over 8,000 Gateway Clicks
  + Campaign Style: “Stay Informed. Stay Covered.”

Meeting Break

Meeting Called Back to Order at 12:05 p.m.

DHS Board Business and Action Items

DFCS Advisory Board Business and Action Items

* Motion for approval of September 13th Advisory Board Meeting Minutes. Moved by DeLaine Hunter and seconded by Meredith Holt. All in favor. Approved.
* Motion for approval of Executive Committee Slate of Belva Dorsey, Chair; Shondeana Morris, Vice-Chair; Meredith Holt, Secretary. Moved by Travis Niblett and seconded by Randel Hambrick. All in favor. Approved.

Advisory Board Member Regional Reports

* R1- MCase Deployment started, Parental Engagement Efforts to improve outcome measures, continue to struggle with Provider services because of staff limitations
* R3 – Adoption celebrations throughout Region, Regional Adoption Unit with new staff, Counties throughout Region have helped Douglas County have helped with backlog, Provider Portal issues
* R5 – Staffing issues, Adoption Awareness Month events, exploration of conflict resolution in Region,the need to find a new young person with lived experience to add to the board, acknowledgment of the housing crisis that parallels with the pandemic
* R8 – Adoptions Celebration in November, with several matches for older youth, and 57 finalized adoptions over the year.
* R9 – Shay Thornton is acting as Interim Regional Director, Teens R 4 Me Youth Conference attendees in Region 9, Clark’s Christmas Kids Participation throughout Region
* R10 – 55 children adopted throughout the year, searching for new County Director for Mitchell County
* R11 – Staffing issues, locating placements for children with complex needs
* R13 – Tablets deployed for staff, update on gas cards
* R14 – National Adoption Month in November, DeKalb County had 29 adoptions; have 39 adoptions ready for December; over 50 children have achieved permanency this year; on-call pay for staff discussion
* AL- Jennifer Shinpoch: Discussion of trauma informed care and programs for foster parents, case workers, and others

Advisory Board Committee Reports

* Regional Trends Committee- Has met three times this year, DeLaine Hunter, Chair, is transitioning off of the Board, and Meredith Holt will replace her as Chair in 2023. Goals of committee: Foster parent recruitment, overall communication, and partner collaboration.
* Community Relations Committee- Have had several meetings and are excited and interested in Communications initiatives going on in DHS

Presentation by Commissioner Candice Broce

* Extension of Public Health Emergency- OFI Medicaid Recipients will continue to have coverage until it expires
  + Gearing up for when the Public Health Emergency does expire with new technology and policies to ensure we are ready
* Launching Foster Parent Recruitment Initiative
  + Media coverage and ads coming featuring foster families DHS has worked with
* Clark’s Christmas Kids
  + Wish Lists Available on Website
  + In-person events: 12/2 at Roswell Walmart, 12/3 at Marietta Walmart
* Governor’s initiative to administer one-time cash assistance payments
  + Rolling out virtual and physical cards for this
  + 3.3 million accounts eligible to receive funds, about $658 million spent so far, with top category being grocery store expenditures
* Legislative Proposals and Budget in Review with Governor’s Office
* Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Fletcher and Chair Dorsey
* Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.