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

February 15, 2022

Teams Live Event and In-Person

**Board members present:** Chair Belva Dorsey (R8), Secretary Meredith Holt (R13), Dr. Fran Chastain (R2), Susie Weller (AL), Laci Tippins (R11), Allyson Christianson (12), Deke Copenhaver (R7), Travis Niblett (R9), Nancy White (R6), Octavia Fugerson (R5), Jennifer Shinpoch (AL), Randel Hambrick (R3), JaNice VanNess (AL)

**Board members absent:** Virgil Costley (AL), Judy Manning (AL), Tommy Hill (R10), Shondeana Morris (R14), Vacant (R1), Vacant (R4)

**DHS staff:** Commissioner Candice Broce, Craig Foster, Matt Krull, LaMarva Ivory, Kylie Winton, Bryan Horn, Ann Burris, Mary Havick, Emma McCullough, Donna Yeomans, Jackie Tate, Melody DeBussey, MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Robin Herron, Chuck Stone, Chuck Inman, John Hurst, Sarah Hurst, Demetrius Taylor, Melissa Barwick, Takissia Davis, Pamela Carr Cosby, Scott Rogers, Kirk Chaney

* Welcome and Introductions, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair B. Dorsey. Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. Quorum met.
* Motion to approve today’s agenda. All in favor. Approved.

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

* + The Dementia Crisis: Facts and Figures​
    - 1 in 9 Americans over 65 are living with Alzheimer’s Disease
    - 1 in 3 Americans over 85 are living with Alzheimer’s Disease
    - Half don’t know it
  + Georgia Alzheimer’s & Related Dementias (GARD) State Plan
    - Originally signed in 2014 by Governor Deal
    - 2020- State Plan updated with new goals and strategies
    - Six workgroups: Workforce development, Service Delivery, Outreach and Partnerships, Research and Data Collection, Public Safety, and Policy
    - Dementia Care Specialist in each AAA to create a “dementia- capable” aging network
  + Georgia Memory Net
    - Georgia Memory Assessment Clinic (MAC) location expansion
    - Increasing from 5 to 7 locations
  + Early Detection and Diagnosis
    - Cognitive screenings, including Annual Wellness Visit

Presentation by John Hurst, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, and Ashlei Seals, Assistant Deputy Director, Child Support Services

* + Georgia Charting a Course for Economic Mobility and Responsible Parenting
    - $890,301 awarded to Georgia DCSS
    - Partnership with Columbus State University to create and open access eLearning curriculum
  + Safe Access for Victims’ Economic Security
    - $313,873 awarded to Georgia DCSS
    - Approach: Increase access to child support and parenting time services for domestic violence victims
      * New screening and response protocols, updated policies and case processing
      * Partnerships with domestic violence agencies and legal aid
      * Expedited orders for support for victims

Presentation by Mary Havick, DHS Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare

* Child Welfare Overview
  + - CW Data
      * Open Intakes: 2,930 in December 2022
      * Open Family Support Stages: 1,481 in December 2022
      * Open Investigations: 2,480 in December 2022
      * Open Family Preservation Stages: 2,904 in December 2022
      * Children in Family Preservation: 8,150 in December 2022
      * Open Voluntary Kinship Arrangements and Safety Resources (Children) in December of 2022
        + 219 Voluntary Kinship Arrangements
        + 9 Safety Resources
      * Foster Children/Youth in Custody on Last Day of Month in December 2022
        + 0-17: 10,782
        + 18-22: 651
      * Children Adopted by Month: 125 in November of 2022
      * CFSR Round 4 Timeline:
        + Planning 2022 through June 2023
        + Evaluation July 2023 through May 2024
        + Program Improvement June 2024 through December 2027

Presentation by Melody DeBussey, DHS Deputy Commissioner, OFI

* + - OFI Data
      * Unduplicated Families Served Across All Programs: 1,506,335 Active Unduplicated Families in December 2022
      * Caseload Size: Average Caseload Size in December 2022 was 1,080
      * Frontline Staffing Levels: Frontline Staffing level processing cases was 1,393 in December 2022
      * SNAP Issuances: SNAP Issuance in December 2022 was $303,605,629. Average issuance per family was $380.
      * SNAP Families: Total SNAP Families in December 2022 was 798,042.
      * SNAP Applications and Renewals Processed: SNAP applications processed in December 2022 was 64,058 and renewals processed was 70,156.
      * Active Medical Assistance Families: Active Medical Assistance families in December 2022 was 1,139,088.
      * Total Medical Assistance Applications Processed: Total Medical Assistance Applications processed in December 2022 was 174,950.
      * TANF Issuance: TANF Issuance in December 2022 was $1,386,207. Average issuance per family was $259.
      * TANF Work Mandatory vs Payee Only Cases: Total TANF Families in December 2022 was 5,347
      * TANF Applications Approved and Denied: Total TANF Applications processed in October was 3,938.

Legislative Update by Chuck Stone, Legislative Liaison

* + House Bill 129- Proposes to extend TANF benefits to pregnant women
  + Senate Bill 8- Proposes to create the “Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired”
  + Senate Bill 64- Proposes to provide a copy of an original birth certificate to adults who were adopted
  + Senate Bill 84- Proposes to provide protections for elder and disabled adults who may be victims of financial exploitation
  + Senate Bill 131- Proposes to align the proper parties and notice formalities for permanent guardianships in Juvenile court with those provisions in TPR proceedings
  + Senate Bill 133- Proposes to establish a uniform process for DFCS to assume custody of children as a result of the Department of Juvenile Justicy delinquency disposition orders and CHINS hearings
  + Senate Bill 134- Proposes to add termination of parental rights proceedings to the types of actions in which a child is competent to testify without the administration of a formal oath and authorizes the use of medical reports in narrative form in dependency and TPR proceedings.
  + Senate Bill 135- Proposes to establish standards for the admissibility and authenticity of records so that court-ordered genetic testing may be utilized in the petition for legitimation of a child in Georgia and other civil actions

Amended FY 2023 and FY 2024 Budget Report by Demetrius Taylor, Deputy Commissioner

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **​** | **AFY 2023​** | **FY 2024​**  **​** |
| **Current Budget (State Funds)**​ | **$920,040,060**​ | **$920,040,060**​ |
| Statewide Adjustments (Common Changes) ​ | -                      ​ | $20,908,058              ​ |
| Workload Adjustments ​ | $8,527,789           ​ | $6,874,428              ​ |
| Other Adjustments ​ | -             ​ | -                ​ |
| Total Adjustments ​ | $8,527,789               ​ | $27,782,486​ |
| **Governor’s Recommended Budget**​  (Includes Attached Entities)​ | **$928,567,849**​ | **$947,822,546**​ |

County Board Annual Reports Presentation by Emma McCullough, Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs

* + Assessment of Effectiveness
    - Community partnerships and communication with stakeholders​
    - Utilization of both in-person and virtual service to clients​
    - Boost in employee morale​
  + Needs for Improvement
    - Community resources and services​
    - Foster homes and local recruitment​
    - Staff recruitment and retention​
  + Board Recommendations
    - Targeted recruitment and focus on retention of staff​
    - Identify and recruit foster homes​
    - Lobby maintenance and security​
    - Education on DFCS program areas​

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
  + Rules and Regulations for Child Placing Agencies Rules 290-2-9-.01,.04,.07

Meeting Called to Order at 3:41 p.m.

DHS Board Business and Action Items

DFCS Advisory Board Business and Action Items

* Motion for approval of December 1st Advisory Board Meeting Minutes. Moved by Deke Copenhaver and seconded by Nancy White. All in favor. Approved.
* Meeting Dates set: May 17, 2022 and July 18, 2022
* Bylaw Amendment Proposals tabled until the May meeting

Advisory Board Member Regional Reports

* R3 – Working on plans for National Social Work Month, challenging times with Board of Commissioners
* R5 – Care Portal activated in Region, problems with hiring of personnel in region, affordable housing and evictions problems since pandemic
* R6- All case managers have mCASE and have been trained, Houston County director retired, R6 adoption team completed 71 adoptions in the past year
* R7- OFI began opening office lobbies on a staggered schedule, Region 7 staff were scheduled to receive their equipment for mCASE in December, Promise 686 and WinShape homes partnered with Chick-fil-a to give all social services staff a $20 gift card
* R8 – Partnership with Department of Public Health to expand home visiting services
* R9 – All offices are using mCASE, hiring for new director in Laurens County
* R11 – Improvements with hoteling, mentoring with Called to Care and other community partners
* R12 – Issue of supervision in hoteling, new county directors on board, community partnerships and hope for continued collaboration
* R13 – Cobb County DFCS is in a new building, salary is a reason why staff is leaving according to exit interviews, After-hours unit in Gwinnett and Clayton be re-engaged

Advisory Board Committee Reports

* Regional Trends Committee- Discussion on hoteling: Recommendation of 2:1 ratio of staff to child be considered

Presentation by Commissioner Candice Broce

* Most updates were covered in previous reports
* Currently working through the legislative and budget processes since Session has started
* Extended the amount of time that our elderly receive SNAP
* Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Fletcher and Chair Dorsey
* Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.