

Family First Prevention Services Act Leadership Advisory Council



Date

Thursday, May 21, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Attendees

Emily Acker	Jeannine Galloway	Hugo Mullins
Cheryl Benefield	Shyniece Howard	Lesli Reece
Tiffany Bivins	Sara Bess Hudson	Helen Robinson
Paul Blough	Nyeelah Innis	Brian Russell
Melissa Carter	Catherine Ivy	Morgan Sadler
Sheri Cody	Eric John	Wendy Tiegreen
Rachel Davidson	Donna Johnson	Carol Winstead
Lei Ellingson	Jen King	Shelby Zimmer
Alison Evans	Dante McKay	
Elana Evans	Colleen Mousinho	

Minutes

I. Welcome & Introductions

With this being the initial advisory meeting, DFCS Deputy Director for Child Welfare Mary Havick welcomed the group and provided a briefing on what would be discussed.

Participants were asked to introduce themselves, stating what agency they represented and rating of knowledge/understanding of Family First Act (1- little knowledge to 5- very knowledgeable).

Most participants rated themselves between a 2-3 while some rated themselves a 1 or 4. The group consensus was that even if there was some adequate knowledge of the Family First Act in itself, there was not much knowledge of how Georgia would implement the Act which is what will be discussed on an ongoing basis during advisory meetings.

Participants received a Family First summary sheet and DFCS implementation roadmap for review.

II. Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

- a) Provisions of the Act
- b) System context and National Updates

Melissa Carter (Executive Director, Barton Child Law and Policy Center, Emory University School of Law) gave a high-level overview of FFPSA and IV-E funding implications of the Act and an update on national implementation.

There was a question about which states aligned most closely with Georgia for comparison. Family First Program Director Shelby Zimmer explained that while Georgia is not necessarily comparable to any other states, we are still able to gather info and ideas on how to implement.

III. Current Status of Georgia's Family First Planning

Shelby Zimmer gave an overview of Georgia's phased approach to implementation planning including the technical implementation of prevention services and placement. She also explained the Family First Transition Act and Georgia's plan for utilizing those funds.

Participants were provided the draft candidacy definition for prevention services and link to the Prevention Services Clearinghouse.

Shelby Zimmer illustrated the advisory council's role in implementation planning moving forward.

IV. Wrap up & Next Steps

The next Leadership Advisory Council is scheduled for Friday, June 12th at 1 p.m.