



## State Advisory Board Meeting

January 8, 2019

2 Peachtree Street NW | Atlanta, Georgia

**Board members present:** Chair Tina Bartleson, Vice Chair Octavia Fugerson, Cathy Atkins, Tommy Hill (via phone), Barbara Sims (via phone), Belva Dorsey, Dr. Michelle Zeanah, Meredith Holt, Emily Cole, DeLaine Hunter, Rodney Griffin (via phone)

**Board members absent:** JaNice Van Ness, Kathy Cooper, Roger Bryant, Judy Manning, Emily Brantley

**Other attendees:** Alex Carmarville (GBPI), Wayne Drummond (GPHSA), Lauren Pollow, Amanda Stables,

**DFCS staff:** Interim Director Tom Rawlings, LaMarva Ivory, Ellen Geeker, Ramirez Evans, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, Keith D. Bostick, Walter Jones, Lee Biggar, Chris Hempfling, Sekema Harmon, Natalie Towns, Jon Anderson, Deborah Chosewood, Tammy Reed, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, LaCharn Dennard, Lon Roberts, Ann Burris, Carol Christopher, Cliff O'Connor

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- Welcome by Chair Bartleson. Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. Quorum met.
  - Introductions by board members and attendees
  - Approval of January 8, 2019 agenda
    - Motion by Cathy Atkins- seconded by Dr. Zeanah. All Approved.
  - Approval of minutes from November 2018 meeting
    - Motion by Dr. Zeanah, seconded by Cathy Atkins. All Approved.
  - Board elections – all board members polled and voted in favor for the below
    - Chair – Tina Bartleson
    - Vice Chair – Michelle Zeanah
    - Secretary – Belva Dorsey
  - Presentation by Interim Director, Tom Rawlings
    - Just Culture
    - Workforce
      - Mass hiring event on January 30<sup>th</sup>
      - Changing job specs for social services case manager. Accepting more degrees than a BSW
    - Careful Interventions
      - Want to structure child welfare response in this same manor

- Cut foster care numbers by 5% since June and would like to cut it an additional 5% by the end of this year.
  - Greater Effectiveness
    - OFI focus on accuracy and timeliness
    - Child welfare focus on faster, better data
      - Working with Rep. Dempsey and the Governor's office to secure these projects to gather more data
  - Questions:
    - E. Cole: Will event be for statewide hiring? A-The hiring event will be done in other parts of the state.
    - T. Bartleson: Praised opening up for wider range of degrees. Cautioned to ensure proper training. Response: Training will be key in onboarding new staff with diverse backgrounds.
    - E. Cole: Commends this effort and believes it will strengthen the workforce
    - M. Holt: If no SW degree, can staff still advance? A- Yes
    - Dr. Zeanah: Is there a list of acceptable degrees? A-The list of majors includes most with a BA degree and something in health or sciences.
    - O. Fugerson: What's the difference between the Social Services 1 and 3 positions. A- Level of duties performed.
    - Overview on caseloads and training for social services staff was provided
- Presentation by Legislative Director, Walter Jones
  - Legislative updates
    - Session begins on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>
    - Overview of bill-filing process
    - Governor's budget will be released on Monday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – this will let us know what the Division is being allotted
    - The week following the MLK holiday, there will be budget presentations.
    - Crossover day is day 30. We don't know specifically what day that will fall on this year.
    - Sine Die (final day) is the last day of the session.
  - Recommended legislative proposals
- Presentation by Prevention and Community Support Director, Natalie Towns
  - Overview of program
  - National Family Support network
  - Strengthening Families Georgia
  - Birth Parent Advisory Council
    - Would like the application to be shared with the board so they can share it in their regions
- Chair Bartleson: shared the vision for committee structure and purpose

- Working lunch and committee chairs meeting (11:45 a.m.)
- Chair Bartleson calls the meeting back to order at 1:03 p.m.
- Board member updates:
  - Rodney Griffin: local concerns around hiring process
  - Barbara Sims: regional concerns around hiring process
  - Dr. Michelle Zeanah: working on gathering some local data
  - Meredith Holt: Region 13 Board meeting on 1/9/2019
  - Kathy Atkins: one board is delivering candy to its county staff next week; shared personal reflections
  - Belva Dorsey: She served on the Leadership Columbus planning team. They visited the Health & Human Services building (DFCS) which gave the class exposure to DFCS and the county director spoke on our work.
  - Emily Cole: regionwide they have trouble connecting with OFI district managers. Carroll County has been recognized for bringing all the children back to their home county – “bring them home” effort. Board of Commissioner’s votes tonight on addition and expansion of Carroll Co. DFCS office. Carroll Co. entered into grant proposal with city housing authority to assist with housing for those in need.
  - DeLaine Hunter: Directors have trouble accessing funds timely – are there discretionary funds available? Will meet with Regional Director after each state board meeting to discuss regional issues that need to be pushed up. State of Hope meeting in December brought together all State of Hope sites in Region 1.
  - Octavia Fugerson: had a chance to attend the OCA Child Welfare Summit.
  - Tina Bartleson: high turnover and hiring concerns. Region 3 is struggling with its regional advisory board, so they are starting fresh and checking in with members. Fingerprint checks – streamlining this across other agencies.
- Belva Dorsey: update on 2019 goals and responsibilities for committee chairs
- Committee updates:
  - Dr. Zeanah: overarching goal for the year is to further develop the toolkit for state advisory board members.
  - DeLaine Hunter: set monthly meeting dates. Would like to put together an overall state resource guide.
- Octavia Fugerson: is it possible for a committee member to present if the chair isn’t present? A- Yes
- Emily Cole: please resend instructions with information on e-filing affidavit for public office
- Chair Bartleson: digital copy of presentation will be sent out today. Next board meeting will be held March 12, 2019.
- Tommy Hill: how will the federal shutdown affect our agency?

- Director Rawlings: we drew down enough federal funds to cover us through February. Some funds like IV-E continue to come in. Discussions underway about potential for longer-term shutdown plan.
- Motion to adjourn by Dr. Zeanah. Second by DeLaine Hunter. All Approved.
- Adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Chair:

Sign [Signature]

Date 3-12-19

Secretary:

Sign [Signature]

Date 3-12-19