

State Advisory Board Meeting

June 13, 2017

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Atlanta, Georgia

Members present: Chair Cathy Atkins, Vice Chair Tommy Hill, Emily Cole, Kathy Cooper, Rodney Griffin, Judy Manning, Roger Bryant, Dr. Michelle Zeanah, Emily Brantley, Belva Dorsey, Delaine Hunter, Barbara Sims, Octavia Fugerson.

Members absent: Toni Oliver, Dr. Columbus Watkins, Tina Bartleson, Meredith Ramaley, Lee B. Heery, Cindy England.

Division staff: Director Bobby Cagle, Deputy Director Carol Christopher, Deputy Director Ginger Pryor, Susan Boatwright, Mary Beth Lukich, Katrina Mitchell, Glenene Lanier, LaMarva Ivory, Dahlia Bell-Brown, Ellen Geeker, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, Vivian Egan, Cliff O'Connor, Deputy Director Jon Anderson, Lucy Smith, Yolanda Williams, Ramirez Evans.

Other guests: Helen Sloat, Lauren Henderson, Melissa Johnson, Wayne Drummond.

- Chair Atkins: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Welcome, pledge, prayer and introductions. **There is a quorum.**
- Chair Atkins: Please review today's agenda. Moved by Roger Bryant and seconded by Emily Brantley. Please review minutes from the March meeting. Moved by Vice Chair Tommy Hill and seconded by Dr. Michelle Zeanah.
- Chair Atkins: Thank you for the Photo Op with the Governor. Board member updates.
- Dr. Michelle Zeanah: Update on the Statesboro roadshow. Asks that the Atlanta folks create a program that local/regional DFCS directors could use to teach local community leadership classes about DFCS as part of local leadership development programs run thru various Chambers of Commerce. I don't feel qualified to create that myself although I would be happy to do that presentation locally to my fellow Chamber of Commerce members, Rotary, Exchange Club, etc.
- Emily Cole: Update on Carroll county rotary presentation and visit to Child Advocacy Center
- Director Cagle: Director's update
 - Project Graduate overview
 - 2017 roadshow schedule – October roadshow in Valdosta will likely be moved to 2018 due to scheduling conflict.
- Kathy Cooper: Question about how the Division helps youth who sign themselves out of care at age 18 and what information/assistance is provided to them. **A:**

Information provided about the Independent Living Program (ILP). We counsel youth and encourage them to stay in care. We will do a future presentation on our ILP program for you all.

- Director Cagle: SFY18 budget highlights
- Emily Brantley: Comment on SAAG pay.
- Chair Atkins: Would like more information about the SAAG pay so they can be more informed to advocate for a pay increase. Regarding the supervisor mentor program, what would be the level of experience for the supervisor mentors and how would they be chosen; in house staff or outsourced? **A: Yes we will provide that information. We want to add these mentors in the areas with the most need.**
- Belva Dorsey: You mentioned the Gateway system and a lot of the funds are federal. Does the federal funding include LIHEAP and CSBG? **A: CSBG isn't part of it but LIHEAP is a part of it. Those LIHEAP programs will be included.** Will LIHEAP funding be used toward Gateway? **A: Likely not since LIHEAP is a small funding stream. The majority of the costs are from the Medicaid funding source.**
- Belva Dorsey: Update on the Columbus roadshow and the Celebration of Excellence.
- Chair Atkins: Encourage the board to continue getting involved in their local communities. Any others want to share?
- Kathy Cooper: The Hall County Commissioners did a proclamation in May for National Foster Care month. The Region 2 foster parents of the year were recognized as well as staff. It meant a lot to everyone.
- Emily Brantley: Has heard so many positive comments about Director Cagle. She has been approached by many in her community.
- Emily Cole: Carroll county, with the help of the community, has assembled 65 bags to "make summer fun" for foster children and give them gifts other than at Christmas time. They hope to continue building on that annually and to treat the children at other times of the year.
- Chair Atkins: How to share about pinwheels and plant a seed and start a discussion. Encourage the board to talk with their regional and county boards so that they can share about what we're working on as a state overall.
- Vice Chair Tommy Hill: Update on the State of Hope event and quarterly Regional board meeting. Mr. Hill met with his County Commission to ask for support and advocate for more funding. Would like to have Director Cagle speak with the Kiwanis Club in Thomasville.
- Dr. Michelle Zeanah: Made a pinwheel garden for the number of foster children she serves in her practice who have been adopted.
- Chair Atkins: If you are on two subcommittees, please try to divide your time so that you can sit in on each. Dr. Lee Heery has resigned from the board. We will

wait to see if another appointment is made. LaMarva Ivory will introduce the Committee liaisons. We will reconvene at 12:30 p.m.

- **LUNCH BREAK**
- Committee Reports
 - OFI: Rodney Griffin update
 - Child Welfare: Kathy Cooper and Emily Brantley update
 - Will find a location in each region to centralize the State of Hope
 - Foster Care & Adoptions: Judy Manning update
 - Study on SAAG data, pay and issues they deal with. Will ask Fiscal Officer Cliff O'Connor to prepare a budget to present to the Governor.
 - Community Relations: Dr. Michelle Zeanah update
 - Would like to create a brief presentation for county directors to present at local leadership academies.
 - Workforce Development: Octavia Fugerson update
- Deputy Division Director Carol Christopher: Practice Model update
- Deputy Division Director Jon Anderson: Office of Family Independence update
 - Georgia Gateway overview
 - Octavia Fugerson: Comment on number of new applications versus renewals.
 - Dr. Zeanah: How are we creating access for those who aren't as computer literate or who have language barriers? **A: They can still do a paper application, come into the office or do the application via phone. The customer portal is compliant with all ADA requirements.** Is it feasible to do on a cell phone? **A: Not at this time. Due to the time it takes to complete the application via the computer, it would take much longer via cell phone. We are looking at some of these newer technology options.**
- Deputy Division Director Ginger Pryor: Office of Child Welfare update and rebranding effort
 - State of Hope overview
 - Regions of Hope description
 - "Restoration Rome" overview
 - Identifying individuals to participate in the design team
 - Will share the State of Hope video for you all to disseminate and share in your communities
- Chair Atkins: closing comments and asks for the board members to ask about their county's involvement with the County Board Association when they go back to their communities. Next meeting September 12, 2017.
- Judy Manning moves to adjourn. Second by Roger Bryant.