



## DFCS State Advisory Board Meeting

June 12, 2018

State Office – 2 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta GA

**Board members present:** Chair Tina Bartleson, Judy Manning, Cathy Atkins, Rodney Griffin, Tommy Hill, Barbara Sims, Cindy England, JaNice Van Ness, Delaine Hunter, Meredith Holt, Kathy Cooper, Belva Dorsey, Dr. Michelle Zeanah (via phone), Octavia Ferguson (via phone), Judge Emily Brantley (via phone)

**Board members absent:** Roger Bryant

**Other attendees:** Wayne Drummond (GPHSA), Dr. Kristina Jaskyte Bahr, Holly Valentine (Be the Village)

**DFCS staff:** Virginia Pryor, LaMarva Ivory, Ellen Geeker, Ramirez Evans, Katrina Mitchell, Jon Anderson, Vivian Egan, Keith D. Bostick, Jon Anderson, Walter Jones, Mary Beth Lukich, Dahlia Bell Brown, Jeff Lukich, Ann Burris, Sekema Harmon, Tammy Reed, Joyce Johnson (via phone)

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- Welcome by Chair Bartleson. Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.
  - Introductions by board members and attendees
  - Board member Dr. Columbus Watkins is resigning effective June 12<sup>th</sup> due to time constraints. Chair Bartleson expressed appreciation for his service. The Governor's Office has been notified and steps will be taken to secure replacement for his position.
  - Approve today's meeting agenda
    - Motioned by B. Sims and seconded by C. Atkins. Unanimous vote for approval
  - Approve May meeting minutes
    - Motioned by C. England and seconded by T. Hill. Unanimous vote for approval
  - Approve by-laws
    - Motioned by T. Hill and seconded by C. Atkins. Unanimous vote for approval
  - Update by Director Pryor
    - National Foster Care Month
    - State of Hope rollout
    - Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
  - Dr. Kristina Jaskyte Bahr, University of Georgia's School of Social Work
    - Update on Newly Created DFCS Regional Advisory Boards: Their Purpose, Roles and Structure

- Committee meetings and working lunch from 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Workforce Development Committee presentation – Committee Chair England presented an update on committee discussions over the last year. The Committee expressed concern regarding onboarding time frames and impact this has had on staffing allocations (this has resulted in reallocation of awarded funds) and staff retention. There was general discussion about impact that high caseloads have on staff morale. Commissioner Burris indicated that recruitment and retention are important to DHS. Commissioner Burris and Chief of Staff Lukich are in monthly conversations to strategize solutions. Commissioner Burris will present at September 2018 Board Meeting. In addition to this, Board members requested a progress update on HR PASS in three months to assess impact on onboarding time frames.
- Charter completion
  - No other edits were made to the document
  - Discussion on goals was tabled given time constraints. Draft goals will be circulated to members via email for feedback in advance of September's meeting.
- Board member updates
  - A request was made regarding the panic button: Director Pryor indicated that the project has been tabled given concerns with cell coverage in more rural areas. Some staff are finding success by installing apps to cell phones.
  - Director Pryor invited all to State of Hope Launch Luncheon.
  - Chief of Staff Lukich expressed appreciation to the Board for their involvement in educating legislators.
- Closing remarks by Chair Bartleson
  - 2019 Meeting Schedule reviewed
  - Action Items:
    - Board members asked to communicate with their regions about State of Hope and to encourage applications;
    - Members requested to submit questions regarding workforce development as Commissioner Burris prepares her presentation;
    - Members asked to check in with their respective Regions/County Directors for specifics related to workforce development issues/needs in advance of September's meeting to inform our discussions and strategy sessions related to onboarding challenges.
    - Members asked to respond to emails to be sent in July or August regarding possible Charter goals.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.- motioned by C. Atkins and seconded by M. Holt

  
9-11-18

