**State Advisory Board Meeting**

January 12, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Board members present:** Chair Belva Dorsey (R8), Vice Chair DeLaine Hunter (R1), Secretary Shondeana Morris (R14), Tommy Hill (R10), Meredith Holt (R13), Emily Cole (R4), Judy Manning, Susie Weller, Nancy White (R6), Emily Brantley, Octavia Ferguson (R5), Michelle Zeanah, JaNice VanNess

**Board members absent: None – Six Vacant Seats**

**Other attendees:** Ashley Taylor, Helen Sloat, Fran Chastain, Rachel Castillo, Ann Burris

**DFCS staff:** Director Tom Rawlings, LaMarva Ivory, Jerrica Williams, Ramirez Evans, Kevin Harris, Chris Hempfling, Mary Havick, Carol Christopher, Jon Anderson, Denise Wells, Mary Beth Lukich, Danny Nuckolls, Glenene Lanier, Tammy Reed, Christopher Perlera, Susan Boatwright, LaCharn Dennard, Ashley Parham

* Welcome and Introductions, 2021 challenge, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair B. Dorsey. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. Quorum met.
* Motion to approve today’s agenda. Moved by D. Hunter and seconded by M. Zeanah. All in favor. Approved.
* Motion for approval of November 10, 2020 minutes. Moved by T. Hill and seconded by S. Morris. All in favor. Approved.
* Presentation by Director Rawlings, DFCS Division Director
  + - Welcome everyone
    - 2020 Reflection
    - 2021 Priorities
    - Secret Santa 2020 Success
    - No Totes 2 Tots Program this year
    - CW/OFI overview
  + Questions
    - **Q:** **Where do most of the reports come from? A.** Mandated reporters, educators/school system workers (less since COVID-19 began), hospitals and law enforcement.
    - **Q: Any discussions on training/support for virtual teachers? A.** Yes, there’s a microsite for info and training at the regional level
    - **J. VanNess** shared a resource for the SOLVE Grant: <https://gateway.ga.gov/access/accessController?token=d5976c6efe70c41dc7debaf9&PAGE_ACTION=SolveAccessHelp&CURRENT_PAGE_ID=SOLVD&POP_UP=Y>
* Presentation by Kevin Harris, Director of Legislative Affairs and Interim Communications Director
  + - * Legislative Update
        + 2021-2022 Legislative Session overview
        + Committees of significance to DFCS this session
        + DFCS Legislative proposals
* Presentation by Mary Havick, Deputy Director of Child Welfare
  + - * 2020 in review
        + Virtual everything: Contacts
        + Innovation: CICC Improvements, PAUSE
        + Simplification
        + Prevention, Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being
        + Family First: Act and Opportunity
        + Comprehensive Practice Model
        + Staff highlights
* Presentation by Jon Anderson, Chief Deputy Director of OFI
  + - Agency Response – COVID-19 Update
    - SNAP Renewals Extended – December and January
    - Medicaid Renewals Extended – February through April
    - February P-SNAP approved
    - 15% SNAP increase January through April
    - SFY Historical Trends
    - SNAP Application Increase
    - Second Round of P-EBT Implementation
    - Application Timeliness – SNAP, TANF, Medicaid
    - Georgia Gateway updates
* Board Chair Vision and Expectations
* Board Member Regional Reports
  + R1 – Region 1 has been successful with transitioning to remote working
    - Hiring process still takes too long causing us to lose good candidates
  + R4 – Regional board is growing and getting stronger.
    - Currently working on a project to help increase the graduation rates
  + R5 – Wanting to increase foster parents and volunteers
* R8 – During last regional meeting they shared that Region is #1 in the state for food stamp promptness
  + - Region is understaffed and the hiring process still takes too long
* R14 – Have a meeting coming up soon. More information will be shared at next board meeting
* J. Manning - Region 13 continues to operate well, and letting the staff continue to take care of the kids and families and Cobb during this pandemic
* Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Dorsey
* Possible Ad hoc meeting in February for Board Members to review County Board Annual Reports
* Next Board meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021
* Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.