



## State Advisory Board Meeting

March 8, 2022

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Board members present:** Chair Belva Dorsey (R8), Vice Chair DeLaine Hunter (R1), Secretary Shondeana Morris (R14), Susie Weller, Emily Cole (R4), Dr. Fran Chastain (R2), Laci Gillis Tippins (R11), Emily Brantley, Meredith Holt (R13), Travis Niblett (R9), Virgil Costley, Deke Copenhaver (R7), Nancy White (R6), Octavia Fugerson (R5), Tommy Hill (R10), Judy Manning, JaNice VanNess, Allyson Christianson (R12)

**Board members absent:** Emily Brantley, Randel Hambrick

**Other attendees:** Miranda Bradford, Kristyn Long, Amber Mack, Jennifer King, Melissa Carter, Kathy Kuzava

**DHS staff:** Commissioner Candice Broce, Chris Hempfling, LaMarva Ivory, Jerrica Williams, Ramirez Evans, Kevin Harris, Scherie Jeffries, Denise Wells, Danny Nuckolls, LaCharn Dennard, NuTrelle Toodle, Monisha Rallapalli, Susan Boatwright, Lee Biggar, Sheila Dease-Dinkins, Shannon Fields, Ashley Parham, Salena Perry, Chelsey Williams, Shay Thornton, Kelly Beasley, Holly Campolong, Jacqueline Williams, Stacy Barfield, Kylie Winton, Bryan Horn, Brooke Shaddix, Ann Burris, Sunny Patel, Mary Havick, Kristen Toliver, Emma McCullough, Rhonda Wheeler, Sreeji Vijayan, Shannon Fields, Dawn Criss, Ellen Brown, Wesley Merritt, Jennifer Brogdon, Sekema Harris-Harmon, Ashley Parham, Melanie Curylo, Stephen Harris, Kelly Beasley, Latisha Flesher, Sheila Dease-Dinkins, Ann Burris, Lee Biggar, Brooke Mason

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- Welcome and Introductions, today's challenge, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair B. Dorsey. Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. Quorum met.
  - Motion to approve today's agenda. Moved by Deke Copenhaver and seconded by Tommy Hill. All in favor. Approved.
  - Motion for approval of January 11, 2022, minutes. Moved by Deke Copenhaver and seconded by Meredith Holt. All in favor. Approved.
  - Presentation by Commissioner Candice Broce
    - SHINES Update
      - Pilot project for caseworker mobility set for May 15
    - Hub locations for walk-ins
    - 2022 Legislative Session Update
    - Leadership Changes
      - Ann Burris, DHS Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources
      - Scherie Jefferies, Interim DHS Deputy Commissioner, OFI
      - Julie Walters, Deputy Commissioner Operations
    - Child Welfare SAAGS hourly rate increase request

- GTA Integrated Eligibility System
- Our Priorities 2022
  
- Presentation by Kylie Winton, Director of Communications
  - National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month – January
  - Parent Leadership Month – February
  - National Social Work Month – March
  - Future Observances
  - DHS and DFCS social media
    - [https://www.instagram.com/ga\\_dhs/](https://www.instagram.com/ga_dhs/)
    - <https://twitter.com/gadhs>
    - <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDepartmentofHumanServices>
    - <https://twitter.com/GADFCS>
    - <https://www.facebook.com/GADFCS/>
    - <https://www.instagram.com/georgiadfcs/>
  
- Presentation by Mary Havick, DHS Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare
  - Child Welfare Overview
  - CW Data
    - Intakes Received by Year
    - Open Intakes
    - Open Investigations
    - Family Preservation Stages Open by Year
    - Children in Family Preservation
    - Open Voluntary Kinship Arrangements and Safety Resources (Children)
    - Children in Custody by Year
    - Foster Children/Youth in Custody on Last Day of Month
    - Adoptions by Year
    - Children Adopted by Month
    - Reunifications 2017-2021
  
- Presentation by Scherie Jefferies, Interim DHS Deputy Commissioner, OFI
  - OFI Overview
  - OFI Data
    - Unduplicated Families Served Across All Programs
    - Caseload Size
    - Frontline Staffing Levels
    - SNAP Issuances
    - SNAP Families
    - SNAP Applications and Renewals Processed
    - Active Medical Assistance Families
    - Total Medical Assistance Applications Processed
    - TANF Issuance
    - TANF Work Mandatory vs Payee Only Cases
    - TANF Applications Approved and Denied

- Presentation by Ann Burris, DHS Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources
  - HR Overview
  - FY22 Headcount/Hires/Turnover
  - Overall
  - Social Services Specialists
  - Social Services Specialists Supervisors
  - Economic Support Specialists 19%
  - Economic Support Specialists Supervisors
  - Voluntary Turnover Exit Survey – Top Reasons Cited
  - Child Welfare Vacancies
  - OFI Vacancies
  - DFCS Time to Offer
  - Research
  - DFCS Critical Jobs – Entry Salary
  - Agency Actions
  - Engagement
  
- Presentation by Kathy Kuzava, Georgia Food Industry Association
  - Problems with turnover
  - Pandemic affected how families and individuals were able to access food
  - Partnership with DFCS- spreading out benefits to help ensure that families were able to get what they needed when they received their benefits
  - Senior Hunger Task Force
  
- Presentation by Nutrelle Toodle, Project Director, State of Hope
  - Assessments of Effectiveness
    - Community Partnership and Teleworking
  - Needs for improvement
    - Staff recruitment and retention
    - CSEC services and training
    - Foster Care homes
  - Board recommendations
  
- Board Discussion
  - Motion to amend meeting schedule with additional joint meeting dates May 18 and November 9. Moved by Deke Copenhaver and seconded by Travis Niblett. All in favor. Moved.
  
- Board Member Regional Reports
  - R2 – New Regional Director
  - R3 – NSWM recognition
  - R5 – SNAP trainings
  - R6 – Interviewing for Jasper/Putnam County Director
  - R7 – Region update
  - R8 – 3 counties will be opening hub lobbies; Family Match program will launch; Vacant positions available

- R10 – In the process of hiring Colquitt and Grady County Directors; Dougherty County is hiring a lot
  - R11 – Counties are almost fully staffed but some have a lack of applicants
  - R12 – Hub lobbies; Hiring and internal trainings are a primary focus; Hiring County Directors
  - R13 – Huge strides to recruitment
  - R14 – 2021 Dekalb County had 39 finalized adoptions: 7 finalized adoptions so far in 2022
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- Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Dorsey
    - Next SAB meeting scheduled for May 18, 2022 (joint meeting with DHS)
  - Meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.