**State Advisory Board Meeting**

March 9, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

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

**Board members absent:**

**Other attendees:** Johnanna Weathers, Ann Burris, Fran Chastain, Randell Hambrick

**DFCS staff:** Director Tom Rawlings, LaMarva Ivory, Jerrica Williams, Ramirez Evans, Kevin Harris, Chris Hempfling, Mary Havick, Carol Christopher, Jon Anderson, Danny Nuckolls, Glenene Lanier, Tammy Reed, LaCharn Dennard, Natalie Towns, NuTrelle Toodle, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, Jessica Loeding, Darrell Braswell, Karen Starks, Stephanie Adams, LaSondra Howard-Boddie, Shay Thornton

* Welcome and Introductions, today’s challenge- disconnect from technology and be present in the moment, 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 M. Holt and seconded by S. Morris. All in favor. Approved.
* Motion for approval of January 12, 2021 minutes. Moved by S. Morris and seconded by D. Hunter. All in favor. Approved.
* Presentation by Director Rawlings, DFCS Division Director
  + - National Parent Leadership Month – February
    - National Social Work Month – March
    - Dare to Lead Academy – April. 70 staff
    - Brief 2021 Legislative Updates
* Introduction of Jessica Loeding, Senior Director of Communications
* Presentation by Kevin Harris, Director of Legislative Affairs
  + - Cross-Over Day Update
    - Administration Bills
      * House Bill 114 - Passed
      * House Bill 154 – Passed 160-4; Assigned to Senate Judiciary
      * Senate Bill 28 – Passed 49-0; Assigned to House Juvenile Justice
* Department Bills
  + House Bill 548 – Passed House 171-0
  + House Bill 562
  + Guardianship Bill
* Additional Bills
  + Senate Bill 107; Passed Senate 50-0
  + House Bill 163 – Passed House 166-0; advanced to Senate Rules
  + House Bill 272
* Presentation by Mary Havick, Deputy Director of Child Welfare
  + Introduction of Natalie Towns, Prevention and Community Support Section Director
    - Child Abuse Prevention PSA
    - CAP Month Lunch and Learn weekly in April
    - Virtual Parent Café – weekly in April
    - Prevention and Community Support Overview
    - Levels of Prevention
    - Risk Factors for Child Abuse/Neglect
    - Georgia’s Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Plan
    - Georgia Parent Advisory Council
* Presentation by Jon Anderson, Chief Deputy Director of OFI
  + - Online Purchasing Program
    - LIHEAP updates
      * Heating Assistance Application cycle Nov 1- March 31
      * Cooling Assistance Application cycle April 1 – June 30
    - OFI data trends
    - SNAP applications
    - OFI Timeliness
* Presentation by Johnanna Weathers, Deputy Director – Field Services
  + Compensation Requisitions Time to process for DFCS
  + Time to offer DFCS – Avg 47 days
  + Turnover data
* 2020 County Board Annual Reports – High Level Review by NuTrelle Toodle and Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, OSIE
  + County/Statewide Common Trends
    - Staffing and Employee Engagement
    - Adoption and Foster Care
    - Socio-economic Issues
    - Advisory Board, Stakeholder, and Community Engagement
* Board Member Regional Reports
  + R1 – Upcoming Summit and Regional meeting
  + R3 – Regional Board is working/growing.
    - Several areas of focus for this year
    - Turnover rate is high
  + R4 – High school graduation of youth who graduated early; CarePortal has been helpful in notifying community so that she could receive support
  + R5 – Growing concern about housing in the community
  + R6 – Created a new Regional RD and Adoption team
    - Finalized 25 adoptions and 15 pending
    - April 7 is the next regional board meeting
* R8 – 8 new foster homes in the region
* R10 – Focused on keeping staff motivated
* R13 – Mother’s Advocacy Project update
* R14 – Virtual learning concern
* Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Dorsey
* Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.