



## State Advisory Board Meeting

May 11, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Board members present:** Chair Belva Dorsey (R8), Vice Chair DeLaine Hunter (R1), Secretary Shondeana Morris (R14), Meredith Holt (R13), Susie Weller (AL), Nancy White (R6), Octavia Fugerson (R5), Michelle Zeanah (AL), Emily Cole (R4), Tommy Hill (R10), Randel Hambrick (R3), Dr. Fran Chastain (R2), Deke Copenhaver (R7), Laci Gillis (R11), Allyson Christianson (R12), Virgil Costley (AL)

**Board members absent:** Emily Brantley, JaNice VanNess, Judy Manning

**Other attendees:** Karen Starks, Gail Williams, Johnanna Weathers

**DFCS staff:** Director Tom Rawlings, LaMarva Ivory, Jerrica Williams, Ramirez Evans, Kevin Harris, Chris Hempfling, Mary Havick, Carol Christopher, Jon Anderson, Denise Wells, Cliff O'Connor, Danny Nuckolls, LaCharn Dennard, NuTrelle Toodle, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, Salena Perry, Jessica Loeding, Rhonda Wheeler, Christopher Perlera, Sekema Harmon, Kelly Beasley, Susan Boatwright, Shay Thornton, Dawn Criss

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- Welcome and Introductions, today's 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. Motion to approve by S. Weller and seconded by D. Hunter. All in favor. Approved.
- Motion for approval of March 9, 2021 minutes. Moved and seconded. All in favor. Approved.
- Introduction of New SAB Members – Fran Chastain (R2), Randel Hambrick (R3), Deke Copenhaver (R7), Laci Gillis (R11), Ally Christianson (R12), Virgil Costley (At Large)
- Presentation by Director Rawlings, DFCS Division Director
  - Division Overview
    - Agency Vision & Mission
    - Office of Family Independence and Child Welfare
    - Major Priorities
    - Foster Children and Youth totals

- Presentation by Cliff O'Connor, CFO
  - Overview/Breakdown of DFCS Budget
- Presentation by Mary Havick, Deputy Director of Child Welfare
  - Child Welfare Overview
  - National Foster Care Month
  - Reunification Month
- Presentation by Jon Anderson, Chief Deputy Director of OFI
  - OFI Overview
  - Pandemic Response
- Board Chair Message, Belva Dorsey
  - Serve as Ambassador and be a Champion for the Division – attend Roadshows and share information/resources.
  - Full engagement and participation in meetings and committees.
  - Partner with leadership to promote Division.
- Board Member Regional Reports
  - R1 – 242 approved foster homes -32 added since January; Hiring timeliness remains a concern
  - R3 – Retaining staff and replacing staff still challenging
  - R4 – A lot of prevention activity took place last month
    - \$50 donations will be going to foster parents
  - R5 – Collaboration with United Hope for Children and Hope for Life in the region.
    - Update on region numbers
  - R6 – CAP Month was recognized.
    - New initiative in the region
    - R6 roadshow June 22-23
  - R8 – New CD in Sumter; Event with Amerigroup to honor Foster Parents
  - R12 – Great Staff Appreciation events
  - R13 – Event to celebrate Graduates; Lengthy hiring process is a concern
  - R14 – Foster Care Celebration upcoming
    - June 1st New County Director for DeKalb
    - Update on region numbers
- Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Dorsey. Next meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.