**State Advisory Board Meeting**

July 13, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

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

**Board members absent:** Meredith Holt, Emily Brantley, Virgil Costley

**Other attendees:** Karen Starks, Jed Dews, Rachel Catillo

**DFCS staff:** Director Tom Rawlings, LaMarva Ivory, Jerrica Williams, Ramirez Evans, Kevin Harris, Chris Hempfling, Mary Havick, Jon Anderson, Denise Wells, Danny Nuckolls, Glenene Lanier, LaCharn Dennard, NuTelle Toodle, Rhonda Wheeler, Sekema Harmon, Johnanna Weathers, Lee Biggar, Jennifer Brogdon, Carmen Callaway, Sheila Dease-Dinkins, Shannon Fields, Ashley Parham, Salena Perry, Samantha Walker, Chelsey Williams

* Welcome and Introductions, today’s challenge -*Listen for one thing you can do to support the Division,* housekeeping, and roll call by Chair B. Dorsey. Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m. Quorum met.
* Motion to approve today’s agenda. Moved by Deke Copenhaver and seconded by Randel Hambrick. All in favor. Approved.
* Motion for approval of May 11, 2021 minutes. Moved by Shondeana Morris and seconded by Deke Copenhaver. All in favor. Approved.
* Presentation by Director Rawlings, DFCS Division Director
  + - Personnel Changes
      * Carol Christopher, Chief Operating Officer – retired June 30
      * New DHS Commissioner – Gerlda Hines
    - Reunification Month wrap up – June 2021
    - Amped Kids First Talent Show – September 2021
      * Open to all foster youth ages 7-21
* Brief Legislative Update
  + - * + Budget
* Brief office operations update
* Presentation by Lee Biggar, Senior Director of Knowledge Management
  + Post COVID Operations Decision Support Project
    - Project objectives
      * Understanding how remote work has impacted agency workforce and customers
      * Inform agency decisions on remote work and improvements to customer service
* NCWWI Survey – Key Findings
  + Survey Findings Summary
* Carl Vinson Institute of Government Group Interviews – Key Findings
* Presentation by Mary Havick, Deputy Director of Child Welfare
  + - Child Welfare Updates/Data
    - Retention Efforts
    - Samantha Walker – Reunification Month Overview
    - Carmen Callaway
      * Celebration of Excellence
      * Data – Youth in care over 21
      * GA RYSE Pandemic Relief Stimulus Funding (Chafee Division X) – Georgia’s Plan
* Presentation by Jon Anderson, Chief Deputy Director of OFI
  + - OFI data
    - Issuances
    - Virtual Lobby
* Board Discussion: Committees -Send committee choice to LaMarva
* Board Member Regional Reports
  + R1 – Significant turnover; low applicant pool;18 adoptions
  + R2 – Decreased turnover; No current concerns
  + R3 – Hiring is going well; 5 new hires started July 1; Foster Parent involvement is growing
  + R4 – Concerns/questions about graduation rates
  + R6 – Difficulty placing youth with mental health challenges
  + R7 – No updates; Kudos to Division for amazing work providing updates
  + R8 – Staff highlighted in Connections Newsletter; Slow hiring; Anticipated resignations due to returning to offices
  + R10 – Staffing concerns
* R11 - Struggling with HR and hiring; 34 pending positions; CW Boot Camp
* R12 – Filling vacancies; Reunification celebration; 35 kids going to camp
* Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Dorsey
* Next meeting is September 14, 2021
* Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.