**State Advisory Board Meeting**

September 14, 2021

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Board members present:** Chair Belva Dorsey (R8), Vice Chair DeLaine Hunter (R1), Secretary Shondeana Morris (R14), Judy Manning (At-Large), Susie Weller (At-Large), Nancy White (R6), Octavia Fugerson (R5), Dr. Michelle Zeanah (At-Large), Emily Cole (R4), Tommy Hill (R10), Laci Gillis (R11), Allyson Christianson (R12), Virgil Costley (At-Large) Deke Copenhaver (R7)

**Board members absent:** Dr. Fran Chastain (R2), Randel Hambrick (R3), Meredith Holt (R13), Judge Emily Brantley (At-Large)

**Other attendees:** Chelsea DeWaters, Amber Mack, Connor Rahbany, Ann Burris, Johnanna Weathers, Jackie Tate

**DFCS staff:** Director Candice Broce, LaMarva Ivory, Jerrica Williams, Ramirez Evans, Kevin Harris, Chris Hempfling, Jon Anderson, Denise Wells, Colleen Mousinho, Danny Nuckolls, LaCharn Dennard, NuTrelle Toodle, Rhonda Wheeler, Christopher Perlera, Sekema Harmon, Susan Boatwright, Jennifer Brogdon, Sheila Dease-Dinkins, Shannon Fields, Ashley Parham, Salena Perry, Chelsey Williams, Colleen Mousinho, Lon Roberts, Tara Lowe, LaSondra Boddie, Dawn Criss, Jeffrey Brown

* 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. Moved by Tommy Hill and seconded by Shondeana Morris. All in favor. Approved.
* Motion for approval of July 13, 2021, minutes. Moved by Nancy White and seconded by Susie Weller. All in favor. Approved.
* Presentation by Director Candice Broce, DFCS Division Director
* Personnel Changes
* Welcome new DFCS Director Broce
* Craig Foster – Chief of Staff
* Robin Herron – Executive Operations Director
* Sunny Patel – Chief Operating Officer
* Breanna Thomas – Deputy Chief Operating Officer
* Kylie Harrod – Communications Director
* Ongoing Initiatives
* Budget Development
* Legislative Policy Development
* Families First Implementation – OCT 1
* New Initiatives
  + Staffing
  + Placement of Youth with Complex Needs – Process Mapping
  + Technology
  + State of Hope Round 4 Sites Announcement
  + National Kinship Care Month
  + National Recovery Month
* Presentation by Senior Director, Colleen Mousinho, Child Welfare Update on Mary Havick’s behalf
  + - Child Welfare data
    - National Kinship Care Month
    - National Recovery Month
    - Quality Caregiving
    - National Adoption Month planning
* Presentation by Jon Anderson, Chief Deputy Director of Office of Family Independence
  + - OFI Overview/data
    - Issuances
    - Agency Pandemic Response
    - LIWAP
    - SNAP Waivers
* Board Discussion
  + Term Expirations -let LaMarva know by October 31st if you will/will not continue
  + Elections- send nominations in to LaMarva by September 30th; current slate will continue if no nominations received
  + Committees
* Board Member Regional Reports
  + R1 – 21 resignations
  + R2 –Habersham E-911 Children’s Fun Festival 10/21@5PM; Synergy group through NCWWI Action Team; HR/hiring process that creates gaps
  + R3 – Hiring 30-staff; continuing to monitor pandemic
  + R4 – Staff coverage concerns; Family leave and inability to get staff onboard in a timely matter/inadequate applicant pool
  + R5- Increase in youth in care with no placements
  + R6 – New staff on board and additional coming
  + R7 – RAB postponed; same challenges as other regions
  + R8 – Several new hires; Capacity building; NCWWI implementation team
* R11 – Placement concerns; hoteling; multiple adoptions
* R12 – Met w/RD; ECEM initiative; several vacancies
* R14 – 26 pending adoption finalizations
* Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Dorsey. Next meeting Nov. 9th @10:00 am.
* Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.