**State Advisory Board Meeting**

May 12, 2020

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Board members present:** Chair Michelle Zeanah, Secretary DeLaine Hunter, Tommy Hill, Barbara Sims, Meredith Holt, Rodney Griffin, Cathy Atkins, Emily Cole, Judy Manning, Octavia Fugerson, Judge Shondeana Morris, Susie Weller, Nancy White, JaNice VanNess, Tina Bartleson

**Board members absent:** Belva Dorsey, Emily Brantley, Roger Bryant

**Other attendees:** Wayne Drummond**,** Rachel Davidson, Alex Camardelle, Helen Sloat, Fran Chastain

**DFCS staff:** Director Tom Rawlings, LaMarva Ivory, Jerrica Williams, Patrice Meadows, Ramirez Evans, Kevin Harris, Chris Hempfling, Mary Havick, Carol Christopher, Dahlia Bell-Brown, Glenene Lanier, Darrell Braswell, Tammy Reed, Jon Anderson, Denise Wells, Carmen Callaway, Candis Jones, Donjai Calhoun, Mary Beth Lukich, Ashley Parham, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, Chelsey Williams

* Welcome, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair Dr. Zeanah. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. Quorum met.
* Motion to approve today’s agenda. Moved by Cathy Atkins and seconded. All in favor. Approved.
* Motion for approval of March 10, 2020 minutes. Moved and seconded. All in favor. Approved.
* Presentation by Director Rawlings
  + High level report of COVID-19 pandemic
    - Mandatory teleworking CW and OFI about 90% of staff
    - We went from receiving about 32,000 to 163,000 SNAP applications in April; processing about 15,000 per day
    - Double call volume for our call center
    - Call back time 28 seconds average; 90% customer service
    - SNAP application has been simplified by BOTS to speed up the process
    - P-SNAP benefits released to eligible families
    - P-EBT may be releasing soon – for families who have students who receive free lunch while in school
* 65 finalized adoptions in the month of April
* Virtual Roadshows – planning in place
* Leveraging teleworking and minimizing travel
  + Child Abuse Prevention Month Recap
  + National Foster Care Month
  + Questions
    - Emily Cole: How will the customer satisfaction rate be maintained during renewals? **We are in the process of extending our use of BOTS which will be able to do renewals 24/7 and 10x faster than a human. Results have been promising.**
    - Dr. Z: Can you tell us more about the Spot, Stop, and Support? **The child abuse report numbers went down significantly because most of them come from mandated reporters and we needed to communicate how you can look out for children in their communities. It is a microsite for resources for mandated reporters.**
    - Alex C: Is there any consideration of using any portion of TANF reserves to provide direct assistance to poor families? **The TANF roles in GA, of 10,000 cases we have about 9,000 that are child only cases. Still in discussion.**
* Presentation by Kevin Harris
  + Legislative updates
* Presentation by Jon Anderson on behalf of Cliff O’Connor
  + SNAP SFY historical issuance trends
  + SNAP Issuances- one-year baseline
  + Online purchasing program – Federal Nutrition Services allows. Georgia has applied to permit online ordering and home delivery via Walmart and Amazon.
* Presentation by Dahlia Bell-Brown
  + Partnerships during COVID-19
    - Community support and response
    - GA chapter of the AAP – Foster Care Committee
    - Braves partnership
    - GA Grantmakers Alliance
    - Supporting older youth in extended care
  + Roadshows – planning virtual meetings
  + State of Hope Updates
    - Extended deadline to May 1st
    - Funded sites from rounds 1 and 2 were invited to apply for extended funding
    - Received 143 applications overall
  + Human Trafficking efforts
    - Receiving center opened earlier this year
* Presentation by Carmen Callaway:
  + - Well-Being Services Section overview
      * Breakdown of seven programs within the section
      * Georgia TeenWork is now Georgia CREW
      * COVID-19 response
        + Increased support to older youth
        + Informal Child Care Provider Protocol
        + Virtual training opportunities
        + Remaining committed to ensuring well-being of children, youth, and young adults
* Question:
  + Can children who are not in foster care be helped? **We do have certain resources for youth who are not in foster care that may qualify.**
* Presentation by Candis Jones
  + Supporting our youth in college who were displaced by COVID-19
    - Provided additional stipends to support those youth in transition (youth who already receive educational vouchers)
* Mental health, transportation, and rent support provided to youth in ILP
* Presentation by Donjai Calhoun
* Early Childhood Services updates
* Supplemental Support Waivers for children who do not qualify for CAPS
* Board member regional reports
  + Community relations committee-
    - Local DFCS can look to school systems for support
    - What are communities doing that can be implemented in other communities to provide hope or engagement to other children? Please send suggestions to Susie.
  + R1-
    - New Fanning County Director
    - Interviewed for Catoosa County Director – should know something by July
    - Teleworking productivity
    - Discussed budget cuts during regional board meeting
    - TBRI training – four counties completed
* R4-
  + Approved our set of bylaws -willing to share
  + Carroll County has a Foster Family of the year – fostered more than 70 children – we have a meal being catered to them
* R5-
* Financial Literacy Month was in April
* R13
  + - Regional board meeting will take place in the next two weeks
* Closing remarks by Dr. Zeanah
  + Next board meeting is July 14th – may be virtual
* Motion to adjourn at 12:32 p.m. by J. Manning. Seconded by T. Bartleson. All in favor.