

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES**

**March 20, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tiena Fletcher, Chair
Frank Auman, Vice Chair
Lisa Alexander
Scott Johnson
Randy Smith
Jack Williams

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sandra Smith
Monica Walters, Secretary

Chairperson Tiena Fletcher called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 2:18 p.m. on March 20, 2013.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the February 20, 2013 meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

Ms. Fletcher presented the modified 2013 schedule to reflect bi-monthly meetings of the Board. A motion was made and seconded that the 2013 Board meeting schedule be approved. Commissioner Reese stated that even though the meetings have been scheduled for bi-monthly, the Board can call a meeting at any time with a 48 hour notice, and meetings can also be held by phone.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Clyde L. Reese, III reported the following to the Board:

At last month's meeting a rule to allow credit reports for foster children 16 years and older was released for public comment for 30 days. As required under the Administrative Procedure Act a public hearing was held on March 13, 2013 to allow for oral comments (there were no oral comments). The comment period officially ends on March 22, 2013. To date no comments have been received. A comment packet will be provided to the Board for review. A proposal will then be presented to the Board in May for voting purposes.

Last year the General Assembly passed a law to provide for drug testing as a requirement to receive TANF benefits. DHS has drafted rules to administer the drug testing. Last month the United States 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Florida which had a similar law. DHS will wait to see if Florida will appeal to the Supreme Court or to the full 11th Circuit Court before making a decision to go forward. The Board will be given updates.

The General Assembly will adjourn March 28th. At the next Board meeting, Legislative Director, Lisa Marie Shekell will give a full update on what happened during the session.

The FY13 Amended Budget was passed with minimal changes to what was provided to the Governor and what he put forth in his budget proposal.

The FY14 Budget passed the House. To meet the 3% reduction requirement by the Governor, DHS proposed to eliminate specific contracts and 17 family service workers from the Aging Program -- the House put those funds back in the DHS budget. The budget is now in the Senate. The Board will be given a report of the final approved budget at the May meeting.

Commissioner Reese acknowledged Kathy Herren, Deputy Director of DFCS. Ms. Herren will retire on April 30th with 34 years of service. He commended Ms. Herren on her ability to take a complex, tragic situation regarding child welfare, and come to some sort of resolution that helps the family and the children. Her expertise and dedication will be greatly missed. Ms. Herren will return to DHS on a part-time basis.

Ms. Herren addressed the Board and Commissioner Reese. She is humbled by the work she has done and has an appreciation for what it has brought to her life. It has been her pleasure and honor to work for DHS over the years and is looking forward to continuing in her role on a part-time basis.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Fletcher thanked Ms. Herren for her years of dedication and service to DHS and wished her a great retirement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at Two Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 29.250, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:

Tiena Fletcher, Chairperson