

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 26, 2015  
1:00 p.m.  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tiena Fletcher, Chair  
Frank Auman, Vice Chair  
Monica Walters, Secretary  
Randy Smith  
Scott Johnson

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Judy Brownell  
Jack Williams  
Lisa Alexander

Chair Tiena Fletcher called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 2:23 p.m. on August 26, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the June 17, 2015 Board meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. After a brief discussion, the Chair asked the Board for a motion to approve the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Amended and FY 2017 DHS Budget recommendations. There being no further discussion, the motion was made and seconded, the vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.
2. The Chair asked the Board for a motion to adopt the proposed Amendment to the Rules and Regulations Chapter 290-1-8-.02 related to providing Consumer Reports to Foster Youth. There being no further discussion, the motion was made and seconded, the vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.
3. The Chair asked the Board for a motion to adopt the proposed Amendment to the Rules and Regulations Chapter 290-7-1-.03, 290-7-1-.06, and 290-7-1-.10 related to Recovery and Administration of Child Support. There being no further discussion, the motion was made and seconded, the vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

4. The Chair asked the Board for a motion that the Proposed Rule Amendments to Rules and Regulations 290-7-1-.04 and 290-7-1-.05 related to Recovery and Administration of Child Support be approved for initial release for public comment. Based on public comment, the Board will consider the proposed rule for final adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting. There being no further discussion, the motion was made and seconded, the vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Crittenden commented that she was honored when the DHS Board and the Governor appointed her to Department of Human Services. Since then she has spent a lot of time getting to know the staff, leadership team, stakeholders, and learning about the great things we are doing. Our mission, vision, and core values all roll-up in support of the great things that we do.

Last year, the Governor moved child welfare under Director Cagle so that it could receive all the attention needed. Director Cagle was in Augusta this week sharing information on the Blueprint for Change for DFCS. Going forward he or a member of his team will be here at the Board meeting to give a report as a part of the divisional reports. She commented what this change means to DHS is that she is able to prioritize the remaining two areas and really give the attention and focus needed. Those two areas are Aging and Child Support Services. She stated that these two programs will become more pronounced and promote greater access to them throughout the state.

She commented that we will also be assessing our internal operations to ensure that we are operating effectively and efficiently and that all we do is what she'd like to call the Gold Standard. She announced next month, the senior leadership team will be meeting to engage in a 2-day strategic planning session where we will explore the gold standard and what it means. Commissioner stated she looks forward to bringing you more information about the Gold Standard at the next meeting. She shared she will close out her first sixty (60) days next week. She also commented that we have changed the format for the meetings a little and she hopes that this has worked well for everyone today. We have divided the meeting into sections of administrative reports where different offices and functional areas will be doing reports and updates. Every meeting going forward there will be a divisional report by the division director or a delegate. Any legal or public policy reports will be brought to you as needed. Commissioner thanked Keith Horton, Lynn Vellinga, Renorta Heard, and all of the Directors for all of their help during this transition, it was a tremendous job by all.

Commissioner introduced Gerlda Hines who joined us today for her first board meeting. Gerlda joined us from Department of Community Health where she serves at the Deputy CFO and former CFO at the Georgia Student Finance Commission. She brings a wealth of experience to the team and we look forward to having her join us. Commissioner commented since she has been on board, she has met with several key legislators to hear their concerns and thoughts of the department as well as to introduce herself.

She commented that we heard from Jay Bulot on his attendance to the White House Conference. She stated that Jay was too modest and did not share that he and Melanie McNeil were two (2) out of 150 people invited. She commented that Tanguer Gray presented at the Judicial Sub-committee requesting additional funding for the problem solving court and she did a great job and we have received some additional recommendation for funding. She stated the Office of Purchasing and Contracts received an award for excellence in purchasing and will be honored next month for all of their hard work.

Commissioner announced the submission of our strategic plan to the Governor's Office and stated a copy is in your binders. Commissioner stated that we are focusing very heavily with the executive team on safety for our employees and we are looking for some ways to make sure our staff are safe when going to work or to other office or even client homes. Director Cagle has been working with Georgia Test on a button that is worn and could be pressed to call for help. We are hoping that we will be able to take advantage of this as well. Our Chief Information Technology Officer (CIO) has made several technology updates including our phones and operating system and we are really pleased.

Commissioner commented that she would like to invite the Board to our press conference on Monday, August 31, 2015 where the Governor will proclaim September as Kinship Care Month at the Capital at 3:30pm, both the Governor and the First Lady will be there. She commented her hopes for all to have liked the DHS Facebook page, and asked if you have not to please check it out. Commissioner commented the Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications (OLAC) has done a great job with the Facebook page where you can see all around the state, things all of us and our offices are doing. She commented that we will be highlighting kinship care relationships during the month of September on the Facebook page.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

Chair Tiena Fletcher congratulated our new Commissioner and stated that she has jumped into the work of the agency. She welcomed Deputy Hines and stated that we look forward to working with you and that great relationship we are sure to have. She congratulated the Office of Purchasing and Contracts on the award and glad to see it spotlighted. She commented on the cutting edge technology buttons for staff and keeping our employees safe is great. She stated that she never wants to take the work we do for

granted and from this Board she expresses their sincere gratitude to all of the employees of this agency that do the work that you do. She commented that she always liked a comment from one of the past commissioner' who use to say "we are doing the right work!"

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.

### **THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

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**Monica Walters, Secretary**

**APPROVED:**

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**Tiena Fletcher, Chairperson**