

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES**

**September 19, 2012
1:00 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tiena Fletcher, Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
Lisa Alexander
Frank Auman
Scott Johnson
Randy Smith
Ann White
Jack Williams

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Sandra Smith

Chairperson Tiena Fletcher, Chair, called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 3:10 p.m., September 19, 2012.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the August 15, 2012 regular meeting and August 22, 2012 phone conference meetings be approved. There were no objections and the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Deputy Commissioner Sharon King reported the following to the Board:

Today several staff from the field gave presentations on a typical day in the life of their positions. Commissioner Reese wanted the Board to hear from staff and see the different faces who provide services on the front lines throughout the state. On behalf of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner King thanked the staff for their professionalism, sacrifices and hard work they provide everyday and know that we are here to do what's best for the agency and the citizens we serve. The Commissioner will ask other field staff to present periodically.

Commissioner Reese will present the DHS FY13 Amended and FY14 Budgets to the Governor and his staff on the morning of Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

With regard to the Muscogee County DFCS employee arrests that occurred a few weeks ago, this is an ongoing investigation and DHS is fully cooperating. The allegations involve falsification/modification of child abuse/neglect information entered into the SHINES (child welfare automated database) system. Commissioner Reese, along with DFCS Director, Ron Scroggy, visited the Muscogee County DFCS office on the day of the arrests to speak to staff about the situation and to support the County Director. The message was reiterated to all staff that the safety of children is our guiding principle and there is no reason or incentive to seek to manipulate SHINES data. The two employees that were arrested are currently on administrative leave with pay from the agency. The Board will be updated as the investigation proceeds.

Last year the DHS senior staff, along with members of the Board, participated in a community service project at the Atlanta Food Bank. Plans will be made to do another community service project again this year. The Board members will be contacted about possibilities.

Thus concluded Deputy Commissioner King's report.

Commissioner Reese then made a few comments. He thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting. He stated that it has always been important to him to identify leadership and talent and when that has been identified to give those people

exposure and a chance to do things that other people can benefit from those talents. Shortly after becoming DHS Commissioner he saw those talents in Keith Horton, Director of the Division of Child Support. He noted the work Keith has done in that position and specifically in the past year the Division being named the most outstanding child support program in the country. When the transition of GVRA from the Department of Labor began, and when the Governor asked Commissioner Reese to assist in making GVRA a stand-alone executive branch agency, he identified Keith to be his liaison because of his management skills. Keith was later asked to be the permanent liaison to DHS once GVRA was up and running on July 1, 2012 because DHS is charged with providing administrative support to that agency. Commissioner Reese then announced to the Board that Keith has accepted the position of Deputy to the Executive Director Greg Schmieg at GVRA. He will begin his new position on October 9, 2012. He then invited Keith to make comments.

Keith thanked Commissioner Reese for his counsel and advice and the opportunity given him. He values the six years he has worked for DHS and is looking forward to the opportunity of working for GVRA. He thanked the Board for supporting Child Support and DHS and for being great advocates for the work done here.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Fletcher congratulated Keith on his new position and wished him the best with the new agency.

There being no comments or questions, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

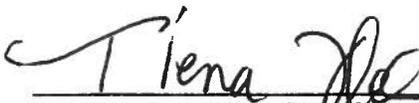
THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2012, Two Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 29.250, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.



Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:



Tiena Fletcher, Chair