DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES'
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

October 17, 2012
1:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tiena Fletcher, Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
Scott Johnson
Jack Williams

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Lisa Alexander
Frank Auman
Randy Smith
Sandra Smith
Ann White – Resigned October 3, 2012

Chairperson Tiena Fletcher called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 2:15 p.m., October 17, 2012.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Since there was no quorum, the Board will vote on approval of the September 19, 2012 minutes at the next t meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

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

Thanks to all those who made presentations to the Board.

Commissioner Reese welcomed Renorta Heard, Director of the Division of Child Support Services and Tangela Gray-Johnson, Deputy Director, to their new positions. One of the Department's important strategic goals is to increase the number of problem-solving courts in that Division and their leadership will help us move forward.

In DFCS we continue to emphasize the safety of our children as a guiding principle. A quarterly report on child deaths, showing numbers, categories and reasons will be provided to the Board on a regular basis. A report is being finalized for the period ending September 30, 2012 and will be shared with the Board and the Governor's Office. This is part of the new safety practice model and it is a major initiative of the Department.

On the eligibility side for DFCS, the major theme is leveraging technology to make the eligibility side more efficient and productive. The EBT procurement is one example of this effort. There is an eligibility system project to replace SUCCESS by the end of 2015. That procurement is coming to an end and the Board will be given an update in the near future.

Commissioner Reese then addressed an earlier question from Board member Jack Williams regarding TANF and EBT card transactions. Earlier this year there was publicity about the use of TANF dollars at certain types of venues that were not deemed appropriate. Congress then passed legislation to specifically prohibit the use of TANF dollars in certain types of venues. This is the first law of its kind -- states have not had to track the use of the money nor did they have the ability to do so after a certain point. Once cash was withdrawn from an ATM from TANF benefits, the dollar amount was tracked, but there was no way to track what that money was used for. Ways are being considered to separate the funds onto two cards for efficiency. The Congressional mandate is to, by 2014, be able to prohibit the use of those funds in certain venues. The Department will coordinate what's been done thus far with the procurement and the two cards and how to go about enforcing the mandate. Staff is also working with the new vendor in accomplishing this effort.

Commissioner Reese will have the Division of Aging Services give a report at the next meeting. The report will be in the area of preventing elder abuse and giving law enforcement more authority and tools to help combat and prosecute offenders.

Strategic Planning – Lisa Norris is the new Director of Strategic Planning and has taken leadership in this area. The Deal administration uses strategic planning as a document to measure the progress of agencies using the Governor's vision and how it filters down to agency processes. The Commissioner stated that five areas were chosen that are of great importance to the agency moving forward. There are others as well that may not be a part of the Governor's OPB Plan, but they are definitely a part of the DHS plan. The Board will be given updates. This is a part of the DHS report card and a way of showing the Board, the public and the Governor's Office that DHS is doing what is required.

Commissioner Reese gave an update on several personnel changes within the agency. Randy Jenkins is the new Regional Director for DFCS in the Clayton, Henry and Rockdale Region. Mr. Jenkins was recruited out of Detroit, Michigan and has been on staff for about a month. We are happy to have him here. Recruitment is ongoing for a county director for Clayton County.

Ms. D'Anna Liber is the new DFCS Director for Gwinnett County, one of the largest counties in the state. She was previously a Director in Cherokee County, so recruitment is ongoing to fill the now vacant position in Cherokee County.

Keith Bostick, who has been with the Department in different positions over the years, and was asked to lead the coordination of the DFCS Region in Gwinnett and Cobb, will be leaving DHS to become the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Early Care and Learning with Commissioner Bobby Cagle. He was doing a great job and recruitment will start for that position.

Also in Fulton and DeKalb, the Regional Director, Glenda McMillan resigned a month ago to take a position out of state. LaMarva Ivory is the new Regional Director. Ms. Ivory had been promoted to Deputy Inspector General from previously being the Director of the Office of Residential Child Care. She has twenty-three years of experience in DFCS which will enhance her leadership in Fulton and DeKalb. This is an extremely important area, particularly with Kenny A. A goal of the Department is to exit from that consent decree that's been ongoing since 2006. To fill the position that she left as Deputy Inspector General, Mr. Donald Pollard, one of our DFCS attorneys, was promoted to that position. Mr. Polland is an attorney, and a strong litigator.

Commissioner Reese congratulated all on their promotions.

Last year Board members participated in a community service project at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Commissioner Reese will look into participating in another project and will contact Board members and senior staff later.

Commissioner Reese announced that Board member, Ms. Ann White from Rome, has resigned from the Board (October 3, 2012). He thanked Ms. White for her service to the Board and for supporting the Department over the years. There are now eight members and he will work with the Governor's Office to fill that position.

That concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Fletcher congratulated Ms. Heard and Ms. Grey-Johnson on their promotions.

Ms. Fletcher requested that a proclamation from the Board be presented to Ms. White on her term of service. She has done great service and will be missed.

There being no comments or questions, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2012, Two Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 29.250, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Monica Walters

Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:

Tiena Fletcher

Tiena Fletcher, Chair