

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
HELD
April 20, 2011**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ann White
Sandra Smith
Jack Williams
Lisa Alexander

Ms. Tiena Fletcher, Chair, called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., April 20, 2011. Ms. Fletcher welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the March 16, 2011 meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Clyde Reese said Ms. Lisa Marie Shekell, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications will give an update on the General Assembly, particularly legislation that affects DHS in the 2011 Session. The FY '11 Amended budget and FY '12 budgets were finalized and Mr. Lynn Vellinga, Chief Financial Officer, will give an update on how DHS came out.

Commissioner Reese said that ComputerWorld, a major player in the computer industry, has an honors program that revolves around recognizing outstanding user achievement in technology and how the IT achievements benefit society and mankind. In the program they chose laureates. This year there were over 1,000 nominations from all over the world. The Georgia Department of Human Services' Data Warehouse Business Intelligence Project for Child Support was awarded the honor and named a laureate by ComputerWorld. The Board saw a demo of that project last year in December. Commissioner Reese invited some of the staff who worked on that project to come to the meeting today and be recognized by the Board. Staff received an ovation for their accomplishment. Commissioner Reese said there were some technical glitches with GTA and IBM with the Georgia GETS project in actually getting it rolled out and allowing it to be used, but it is hopeful that soon it can be used by all Child Support workers. The ultimate vision is to be able to use the project for other programs. The Commissioner and DHS are very proud of staff for the work and for receiving that honor.

When Commissioner Reese was appointed Commissioner of DHS he wanted to find a way to reduce the number of furlough days and reduce the department's dependence in the use of furloughs to balance the budget. He commended Mr. Lynn Vellinga, the financial and budget staff, and the programs for helping him find a way to announce that beginning July 1, 2011 there will be zero furlough days for all employees other than DFCS employees. DFCS employees, or any employee funded by DFCS, will go from 12 days of furlough to six days. In order to reduce DFCS funded employees to zero days of furlough he would have had to lay off about 450 people. He decided not to do that but to cut the furlough days in half and he will continue to try and find ways to reduce the days further. This fiscal year would have been the fourth year in a row that DHS was using furloughs as a way to balance the budget; one furlough day a month is equivalent to a 5% salary reduction and with it going on the fourth year in a row of furloughs with no state employee raises, and with the continued rise in the State employee contribution to the State Health Benefit Plan for insurance premiums DHS was at a triple whammy. He thought it was important to find some way to alleviate that burden and he's pleased to be able to move forward in that direction.

Commissioner Reese said that Governor Deal asked all departments/agencies to give him by May 15th a list of goals for the next three fiscal years which will go through June 30, 2014. He asked for a list of the agency's goals for the next three years and for FY '12 a specific step-by-step plan of how to achieve those goals the first year. This is the first agency assignment given since he came into office. DHS will report to the Board and public in May or June of what was submitted.

Finally, Vanessa Payne has been reassigned to be DHS' Strategic Planner and the Department's Training Coordinator. Commissioner Reese want to line up DHS' Strategic Plan, its goals, priorities, programs and functions with the budget to make sure DHS is funded properly. In the past this agency has not been funded properly, equitably or fully. In order for him to make the case to OPB and the Governor that more state appropriations are needed from a structural point of view he has to be able to show that the missions, priorities, programs and goals are lined up with the budget. Vanessa will help with that and it will ducktail the Governor's 3-year plan. DHS is doing a lot of things with DFCS and training is a big part. If something is rolled out centrally it must get to the counties and get everybody on the same page with understanding what

is being done and how to do it. Vanessa will help coordinate training throughout the Department.

Ms. Lisa Marie Shekell said this is the first year of the two-year cycle of legislation. All legislation introduced that was not passed this year will be in play next year. This year DHS did not sponsor any legislation but focused on building relationships with key legislators. The General Assembly was supported by DHS through resolution of constituent issues, education around DHS divisions and programs, and prompt response to requests for information. Legislation of interest to DHS was HB 178: Health Care Facilities; regulation/licensing of assisted living communities; procedures/criteria. Impact: The bill creates a new level of care for assisted living facilities. Legislation of interest, but no direct impact on DHS programs. HB 214: Public Health, Department of; establish. Impact: This bill will create the Department of Public Health. Legislation of interest, but no direct impact on DHS programs. Bill with direct impact on DHS is SB 94: Firearms; change certain definitions (HB 185: Runaway Youth Safety Act). Impact: This bill allows service providers to keep youth who have runaway for up to 72 hours prior to the service provider notifying the parent/guardian. Service providers include child welfare agencies and nonprofit charitable organizations that have 501(c)(3) status. DHS will need to develop registration procedures and rules. Service providers will pay a \$25 fee to register. Legislation to be monitored in 2012 and have actual conversations over the summer with stakeholders: HB 633: Create a state-wide reporting system for child abuse and suspected child abuse. Impact: This bill would require DHS to establish a state-wide reporting system for child abuse and suspected child abuse. The Reporting system would be available via the Internet and a toll free number, both of which would operate 24/7. Status: House Judiciary Committee. HB 641: Courts; juvenile proceedings; substantially revise provisions. Impact: Currently being determined. Status: House Judiciary Committee. SB 127: Juvenile court; rehearing an order of associate juvenile court judge; delete provision. Impact: Currently being determined. Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

Mr. Lynn Vellinga, Chief Financial Officer, highlighted the impact to DHS of the variances in the budget of the Governor's recommendation and the Conference Committee version. He focused mainly on state funds except when federal funds were the main impact of a particular budget item. Continuation is the beginning FY '11 base budget prior to any changes in FY '11 amended or FY '12. Statewide Adjustments are for Workers Compensation Premiums, Employer share of Employee Retirement Systems and State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP). Redistribution of Unemployment Insurance is to distribute funds placed in the Administration Program in the FY '11 base that need to be moved to other programs. DHS is still short \$2-million in Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and still working with external partners to make up that deficit. Every dollar DHS is short on the MOE the feds will cut TANF allocation and increase the MOE. The EMBRACE contract was eliminated from state funding. As it relates to Family Connection, the Governor's proposal was that Family Connection would be moved to the Governor's Office of Children and Families; however the Legislative intent statement said not to move them to another State agency and not give their money to any other organization to administer. Family Connection will remain administratively attached to DHS. They did not lose funding.

Mr. Keith Horton said that Mr. Zain Farooqui, Legal Policy Specialist, will explain why the request for another public hearing for the child support rules revision. Mr.

Farooqui thanked DCSS' Legal Services Officer Shan Momin and Mark Cicero, Attorney General's Office, for responding to comments received. Following the last meeting the rules were sent out for public comment and the comment period was kept open for 30 days. A public hearing was held March 30, 2011, but there were no attendees at that hearing. Written comments were accepted and seven comments received. The Board received a report that summarizes the comments and the responses from the Division. Most comments requested substantive changes to some of the provisions in the rules. Some the division agreed with, others they did not. Based on some of the comments the Division reviewed the rules and recommended that changes be made to amend the proposed rules that would require an opportunity for a new public comment period. The new date for the public hearing is May 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., in the Board room and the comment period starts today for 30 days. Mr. Frank Auman moved that the Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support Services, be authorized by the Board to present for a second time the proposed changes to Rules Chapter 290-7-1 entitled "Recovery and Administration of Child Support" to the public for comment in a public hearing, and that the results of such hearing be reported back to the Board for final action. Mr. Randy Smith seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed. Commissioner Reese added that the Administrative Procedure Act requires that the rules be out for public comment at least 30 days; there is not 30 days between today's meeting and the May meeting, so the rules won't be submitted for final approval until the June meeting.

Commissioner Reese said the Division of Public Health in DCH will now become the Department of Public Health as of July 1, 2011. Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald is the Director of the Division of Public Health and he assumes she will be appointed Commissioner. The health Commissioners meet monthly informally to communicate and stay on the same page. They'll welcome Dr. Fitzgerald, or the Public Health Commissioner, to those meetings.

May 2-6, 2011 is Employee Appreciation Week. Most agencies have activities to recognize employees for their work and dedication. This year he's adding a contest to allow DHS employees all over the state to submit entries, drawings or artwork, to possibly change the DHS logo. The logo was not changed when DHR was reorganized in 2009 and he thought it might be fun for employees to submit artwork, drawings, and suggestions to a review panel for consideration. If any Board members want to help with the decision making DHS welcomes their participation; the prize is a gift card.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Tiena Fletcher said she had nothing to add to the report except DHS continues to do well and she congratulated the Department for receiving the technology honor. She saw the program in December and it is definitely top notched. She was amazed at what a manager was able to do and see. How fantastic it is for the department to win this international award.

Ms. Fletcher thanked staff for the legislative and budget updates.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services will be Wednesday, May 18, 2011, Two Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 29.250, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:

Tiena Fletcher, Chair