

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 24, 2016
11:00 a.m.
Rome, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robertiena Fletcher, Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
Scott Johnson
Randall Smith
Jack Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Auman, Vice Chair
Judy Brownell
Lisa Alexander

Also present, Commissioner Robyn A. Crittenden.

Chair Robertiena Fletcher called the Board of Human Services' meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. on August 24, 2016.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was presented by Scott Johnson and seconded by Randall Smith that the minutes of the May 18, 2016, Board meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

ACTION ITEMS

1. A motion was presented by Monica Walters and seconded by Randall Smith to approve the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and the General Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, as presented. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.
2. A motion was presented by Jack Williams and seconded by Scott Johnson for initial release for public comment amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Recovery and Administration of Child Support, Chapter 290-7-1 (Sections 290-7-1-.04, 290-7-1-.08, 290-7-1-.13, 290-7-1-.14, and 290-7-1-.15) as presented. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.
3. A motion was presented by Randall Smith and seconded by Jack Williams to approve the Resolution of the Board of Human Services to approve the Real

Property Acquisition from the City of LaGrange, Troup County, Georgia as presented. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

4. A motion was presented by Scott Johnson and seconded by Jack Williams to approve the Resolution of the Board of Human Services to approve the Real Property Acquisition from the Georgia Department of Transportation for Property located in the City of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia as presented. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Robyn A. Crittenden welcomed Representative Katie Dempsey to the Board of Human Services' Meeting. The Commissioner thanked Representative Dempsey for her support of the work done at the Department of Human Services.

Commissioner Crittenden shared the Department's commitment to building, "Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia." She noted the Department's pledge to embody this vision statement in serving Georgia's families.

Recently, Fiscal Year 2016 closed. Commissioner Crittenden shared some impressive numbers. In State Fiscal Year 2016 over 3 million home delivered meals were provided to nearly 14,000 older Georgians. The Commissioner noted that the 16,687 investigations conducted by adult protective services ensured that our aging residents were safe from abuse and exploitation. She stated that each day 782,000 families are able to sit around a table and share a meal because they received their SNAP benefits. Additionally, 883,000 families each day were able to receive medical treatment or services through the Medicaid program. The Commissioner reported that the 50,000 children involved in child welfare each day are safe and receiving the help needed to thrive. And, she noted that 551,369 children in our state were able to receive financial support from both of their parents through child support orders. The Commissioner remarked that these are not just numbers; these are opportunities to change lives for the better. She acknowledged that each of the families touched have an opportunity to thrive because of the work completed by the DHS team.

The Commissioner announced that this year DHS will focus attention on two key elements under the Blueprint—robust workforce development and constituent development. First, on September 1, 2016, DHS will institute an Enterprise Development Unit to strengthen internal training and to ensure that staff know that DHS is invested in their ability to complete their jobs. Second, DHS will begin a "listen and learn" tour, modeled after the DFCS roadshow, to hear from staff and constituents around the state. The Board was provided with the DHS event calendar and was invited to join in on the upcoming events.

The Commissioner reported that DHS Strategic Plan was submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) recently. The plan will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting and is available on the DHS website under the "About Us" tab.

In June 2016, the DHS Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) held the first-ever "Fatherhood Celebration"—over 300 people participated. The Celebration included workshops on fatherhood, activities, and entertainment with great community support. The event received a great response and DHS DCSS has been asked to host the event throughout the State; three events have been scheduled. Also, earlier this week the Child Support App went live and it is going great. The Board saw a demonstration of this application earlier this year.

In relation to the Division of Aging Services, the Commissioner introduced Lynne Reeves as the new Area Agency on Aging Director for the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission.

Lastly, special thanks was given to Lindsey Howerton, Floyd County Director, who not only hosted the Board for today's meeting, but who also went above and beyond to help with the Youth Empowerment Series (YES) meeting held here earlier this month. Special thanks were given to Ron Scroggy of Together Georgia for presenting today and all guests for coming today. Additional thanks were given to Keith Bostick, DFCS Region 3 Director, for his assistance with today's Board Meeting.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Fletcher expressed her appreciation to Department of Human Services' staff members who hosted the Board meeting in Rome, Georgia. Board Member Scott Johnson additionally applauded staff for inviting the Board into the field and for being inclusive of the Board.

Chair Fletcher presented a commendation to Brooke Ford from Governor Deal for her quick response during a dangerous incident at the Bartow County Division of Family and Children Services' Office. The Board stood in unison in applauding Ms. Ford's bravery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 2 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:



Robertiana Fletcher, Chair