



Georgia Department of Human Services
Aging Services | Child Support Services | Family & Children Services

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
AND DFCS STATE ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 1, 2022
10:20 a.m. – 12:51 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Live Event**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robertiena Fletcher, Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
David Barbee
Lisa Hamilton
Scott Johnson
Wes Lewis
Rochard D. White
Jack F. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randall Smith, Vice Chair

Also present, Commissioner Candice L. Broce.

Chair Robertiena Fletcher called the joint Board of Human Services and DFCS State Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. on December 1, 2022.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2022, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Fletcher called for a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes for August 17, 2022. A motion was presented by David Barbee and seconded by Lisa Hamilton that the minutes of the August 17, 2022, board meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

ACTION ITEMS

The announcement of the 2023 Board of Human Services regular meeting schedule was delayed to ensure the availability of appropriate meeting space with the next regular scheduled board meeting tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2023.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Fletcher called for a motion to consider the release of the proposed amendments to the Department's Rules and Regulations for Child Placing Agencies for public comment. A motion was presented by David Barbee and seconded by Lisa Hamilton that the proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Child Placing Agencies within the Rules of the Georgia Department of Human Services, specifically:

- Rule 290-9-2-.01, entitled "Definitions,"
- Rule 290-9-2-.04, entitled "Criminal History Background Checks, Agency Personnel," and
- Rule 290-9-2-.07, entitled "Foster Care Services,"

as presented to the Board today, December 1, 2022, be approved for initial release for public comment for the period of December 5, 2022, through January 4, 2023;

- a public hearing be held on January 4, 2023, via teleconference; and
- based upon any oral or written comments received, the Board will consider the proposed rule amendments for final approval at its next meeting on February 15, 2023.

There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Broce began her report by sharing her excitement of the prospect of seeing everyone in person at the next Board meeting and apologizing for the technical difficulties with the initiation of the meeting.

The Commissioner shared the Federal government has indicated that they will be extending the current Federal Public Health Emergency. Medicaid Recipients will continue to have coverage until the Public Health Emergency expires. The Department is gearing up to be prepared when the Public Health Emergency does expire with new technology, automation, increased staff, and updated policies to make sure we can meet the demands.

The Commissioner then highlighted the Child Welfare Division's launching of the Foster Parent Recruitment Initiative. The campaign was announced in tandem with Governor Kemp and the First Lady. Media coverage and ads featuring families DHS has worked with will be coming soon.

DHS has partnered with Clark Howard and WSB again for Clark's Christmas Kids to try to fulfill the wish list of about 7,000 children in foster care. The wish lists of the children can be found on our website.

The Governor has provided approximately one billion dollars from COVID stimulus bills to DHS to administer a one-time cash assistance payment for anyone that was enrolled in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF as of July. We currently have 3.3 million accounts eligible to receive funds with about \$658 million spent so far. The top category for expenditures has been grocery stores.

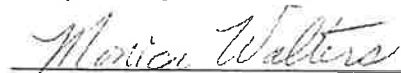
Finally, the Commissioner mentioned that we are currently waiting to hear from the Governor's office on some Legislative proposals and to see if any changes will be considered in the agency's budget.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Fletcher concluded the meeting by thanking the Commissioner and wishing the Board members a Merry Christmas. Chair Dorsey concluded by thanking the DHS Board for allowing them to participate in a combined meeting and wished all the members of the Boards a Merry Christmas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:



Robertiena Fletcher, Chair