



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

**Board of Human Services**

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2024

Atlanta, GA

**Members Present**

Randall Smith, Chair  
Scott Johnson, Vice-Chair  
Monica Walters, Secretary  
Rochard White  
Dave Barbee  
Jack Williams  
Lisa Hamilton  
Doug Aldridge

**Members Absent**

Wes Lewis

Also present: Commissioner Candice Broce

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2024 and April 2, 2024; Motion to approve by Scott Johnson, Second by Rochard White and Dave Barbee; vote passed unanimously.

**Board Business:**

Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) Rule Change

Chairman Smith called for the Board's consideration of the proposed rule change from the Division of Child Support Services related to the amendments to Rule Chapter 290-7, Rule 290-7-1-.12, License Revocation or Suspensions and stood for a motion.

Scott Johnson moved that the proposed amendments to Rule Chapter 290-7 (Rule 290-7-1-.12) of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Human Services entitled 'License Revocation or Suspensions', as presented to the public by notice dated February 27, 2024, be approved and adopted, certified by the Commissioner, and filed with the Secretary of State as provided by law with an effective date of July 1, 2024; Second by Rochard White and Dave Barbee.

Chairman Smith acknowledged the motion and second, then called for discussion; with there being none, a vote was called for; vote passed unanimously.

#### Proposed Action: Salary Adjustment

Chairman Smith called for the Board's consideration of proposal to adjust Commissioner Broce's salary by a 5% increase to the current annual salary and provide notice of such proposed action and the amount to the public and the Governor at least 30 days prior to the date that the Board considers such action on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the date of their next meeting and stood for a motion.

Scott Johnson moved that the proposed action to adjust Commissioner Broce's salary by 5% of current annual salary and provide notice of such proposed action and the amount to the public and the Governor at least 30 days prior to the date that the Board considers such action on July 23<sup>rd</sup>; Second by Rochard White.

Chairman Smith acknowledged the motion and second, then called for discussion; with there being none, a vote was called for; vote passed unanimously.

#### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Broce began by thanking the Board for their consideration of the votes taken in the meeting. She wanted to highlight agency successes not already covered in program reports. The first success discussed was that every county office, outside of one that is currently in progress, has Wi-Fi, a multi-year effort of the agency's.

Commissioner Broce thanked the Governor and the legislature for a new salary increase for employees and stated how beneficial it was for front line staff.

Another successful effort mentioned by the Commissioner are the improvements being made by DHS in its contracting processes. Being the State's largest agency, thousands of contracts are renewed or changed each year. The agency took a wholistic view in order to restructure how contracts are done.

Commissioner Broce stated that Georgia finished its Medicaid redeterminations on time. She also went on to explain how large of an undertaking that was for the entire state throughout this past year.

Within the Division of Child Welfare, the Department has made changes to policy to help eliminate administrative burden and streamline foster parent approval and retention. The Division is also in the process of rolling out new technology that allows keyword searches across our child welfare databases.

The state budget this year also provided a 3% provider rate increase for foster caregivers. This should begin on July 1. Funds were also given for updates and modifications to the STARS system for Child Support Services. This will make the system more user-friendly and hopefully help

increase collections for children in the state who rely on noncustodial parent child support payments. The Commissioner thanked the Governor and the legislature for their support in these efforts.

The Commissioner also shared several projects of interest that the agency is in the process of starting. Changing over large technology systems, such as STARS, and moving toward the replacement process for Gateway, the system that houses Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, and TANF, are big undertakings, and DHS wants to make sure it is done right. The Department is working with other state agencies to ensure all aspects of the process and user experience are considered. Another challenge the state office is addressing is improved coordination with law enforcement. The Department's work focusing on special victims is growing as DHS learns more about how to help children who have been exploited and prevent these cases from occurring. Additionally, another upcoming challenge is the implementation of new federal changes to the Older Americans Act. The new requirements will require extensive advocacy at the state level for funding; however, the Department is optimistic and grateful to the Governor and state legislature for their support in previous years of older adult programs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.