

**Department of Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2023
47 Trinity Ave. SW
TEAMS LIVE
1:00p.m. – 3:11p.m.**

Members present:

Robertiena Fletcher, Chair
Randy Smith, Vice Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
Dave Barbee
Scott Johnson
Wes Lewis
Lisa Hamilton (virtual)
Jack Williams (virtual)

Members absent: Rochard White

Also present, Commissioner Candice Broce

Meeting called to order at 1:00p.m. by Chair Fletcher, quorum met.

- Welcome and Introductions, housekeeping, and roll call by Chair Fletcher.
- Motion to approve minutes from May 10, 2023, meeting. Motion by Dave Barbee, Seconded by Wes Lewis. All in favor. Approved.

Presentation by MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, and Dwan Grooms, District Manager, Aging Services

- Growing population of older adults living alone
 - Studies show it will continue to grow
 - 1.6 million Georgians who are 65 and older
- Dementia in Georgia
 - By 2025, 190,000 people aged 65 and older with Alzheimer's
- Adult Protective Services
 - Number of APS reports involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation in SFY 23: 39,700
 - Number of participants in the Certified At-Risk Crime Tactics Specialist (CACTS) Training Program in SFY 23: 336
- Public Guardianship Office (PGO)
 - When no one qualifies to serve as a Guardian for an individual, the Department of Human Services is appointed, PGO is then responsible for carrying out Guardianship duties

- Main Functions: 1. Guardian of last resort when DHS is appointed, 2. Surrogate decision-maker, 3. Advocate, 4. Coordinate and monitor services
- Running total of PGO wards in SFY 23: 1,312

Presentation by John Hurst, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Child Support Services

- August is Child Support Month, and this year marks the 50th year of the Child Support Program in Georgia
 - When program started in 1973:
 - 7 total state staff members
 - 12,000 cases
 - \$38,000 in collections
 - Now:
 - 1,180 total state staff members
 - 328,192 cases
 - \$759,615,539 in collections
- What's Next for DCSS
 - System modernization
 - Expanding Fatherhood and Parental Accountability Court Programs
 - Fatherhood Program presence at TCSG campuses allows it to be catered more closely to area's needs.
 - PAC Court is in 44/50 judicial circuits. Working to add all.
 - Self-service option enhancement
 - Move from "enforcement" to "services" language

Presentation by John Hallman, Deputy Commissioner, OFI

- OFI Data July 2023
 - Unduplicated Families Served Across All Programs: 1,546,589
 - Caseload Size: 981
 - Frontline Staffing Levels: 1,576
 - SNAP issuance totaled \$268,216,814. The average issuance per family was \$371.
 - SNAP Families: Total SNAP Families 722,899
 - 57,677 SNAP applications and 130,409 renewals were processed
 - 1,123,373 active Medical Assistance families
 - 149,912 Medical Assistance applications were processed
 - TANF issuance totaled \$1,230,452 in July 2023. The average issuance per family was \$264.
 - 4,654 TANF families
 - TANF Applications Approved and Denied: 3,848 TANF applications were processed

Presentation by Mary Havick, Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare

- Child Welfare Overview
 - CW Data
 - Intakes Received in SFY 23:125,290
 - Open Family Support Stages: 938 in June 2023
 - Open Investigations: 2011 in June 2023
 - Open Family Preservation Stages: 2550 in June 2023
 - Foster Children/Youth in Custody on Last Day of Month in June 2023
 - 0-17: 10,712
 - 18-22: 635
 - Children in custody in SFY 23: 16,053
 - Adoptions in SFY 23: 1,281
 - Celebration of Excellence in June 2023
 - Honored 266 youth who graduated from high school, vocational school, and college
 - The mCase Application will be pushed to DHS issued Samsung phones.
 - Targeting a release of this by end of September

Commissioner's Report by Candice L. Broce

- Introduction into the Proposed Rule Change from SB 216 during Legislative Session
 - More options for families with children in the home that need respite care
- Medicaid Redetermination:
 - Last batch of Medicaid Redetermination will happen in April of 2024
 - Georgia's Redetermination plan was reviewed and approved by the Federal Government

Presentation by Dana H. Carroll, Deputy General Counsel DHS/DFCS, K. Jason Bice, Associate General Counsel DHS/DFCS

- Proposed Rule: Allows for and provides a process for caregivers to give notice of their intent to use respite care for more than 72 consecutive hours to the Division of Family and Children Services and provides a process for appropriate screening of the respite caregiver.
- Request to Board: Motion to Publish Notice of Rulemaking: RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RESPITE CARE OF MORE THAN 72 HOURS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE RULE 290-2-31

Board Business and Action Items

- Rule Change Vote, Rule 290-2-31
 - Motion by Randy Smith, Seconded by Dave Barbee. All in favor. Approved.

- Closing remarks and parting words from Chair Fletcher

Meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:



Robertiena Fletcher, Chair