

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES**

**May 10, 2023
2:14 p.m. – 2:23 p.m.
2 Peachtree St., 7th Floor
Atlanta, GA
Microsoft Teams Live**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robertiena Fletcher, Chair
Randall Smith, Vice Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
David Barbee
Scott Johnson
Lisa Hamilton (virtual)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wes Lewis
Jack Williams
Rochard D. White

Also present, Commissioner Candice L. Broce.

Chair Robertiena Fletcher called the Board of Human Services meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. on May 10, 2023. Chair Fletcher requested an attendance report to ensure that we have a quorum. Jackie Tate provided the names of the members in attendance, which established a quorum.

APPROVAL OF FEB. 15, 2023, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair Fletcher called for a motion to approve the Feb. 15, 2023 Board meeting minutes. A motion was presented by David Barbee and seconded by Vice-chairman Randy Smith to approve the minutes for the Feb. 15, 2023 Board meeting. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Broce began her report by thanking those who were able to attend in person and expressing regret for not being able to be at the meeting in person. She advised that her report would be brief as staff had already provided wonderful updates on what had occurred since the last Board meeting. Commissioner Broce stated we had a wonderful legislative session and had several bills to pass that were supported by both the Governor and Lt. Governor that were related to legitimation, foster care and juvenile code reform that dovetailed wonderfully with the significant financial support we secured in both the amended fiscal year and upcoming fiscal year budgets. She advised we were the beneficiaries of 10s of millions of new funding in our annual base budget stating that we are immensely grateful for the initiatives that we will be able to pursue for home and community based services, continuing efforts to end hoteling in the state for the children in foster care and so much more. She also advised that on July 1, we will

officially be moved from 2 Peachtree St. and into 47 Trinity Ave. located on Capitol Hill. She expressed excitement for being able to significantly reduce the agency's footprint at 2 Peachtree by consolidating to two floors and sharing a breezy, bright office space in the new location. She reiterated what Dep. Chief of Staff Krull shared earlier about the Senate study committee that will be working over the summer to look at state child welfare related issues. She stated it will be a great opportunity for stakeholders of all backgrounds to come together and continue the good work the Governor has done in recent years for foster care and adoption reform and then also this year with the Lt. Governor's support to get so many legislative measures passed. Lastly, she advised that we continue to see turnover slow, which is great for our front-line positions, especially in both the OFI and child welfare offices within the Division of Family and Children Services. She said this, coupled with the investments the Governor and General Assembly have put into the workforce with salary increases, cost of living adjustments and benefit increases is directly translating to what we think is slowed attrition, which is a great sign now that we are out of the midst of the pandemic and not seeing as much turnover in those critical fields. She concluded by stating that staff had already provided detailed updates and opened herself to questions.

Chair Fletcher called on the Board for questions, thanked the Commissioner and her staff for the oversight and the work that we do for the state, our children and the elderly, acknowledging how big the job is.

Commissioner Broce acknowledged the comments and thanked the Board for their support.

Chair Fletcher called for new business to be brought forward by the Board. Randall Smith asked if we will continue to meet in the GTA Board room, and Chair Fletcher asked about the parking accommodations. Jackie Tate confirmed that these will be the meeting accommodations going forward. Dep. Chief of Staff Krull advised we have secured an agreement to utilize the GTA board room for cost efficiency and shared his excitement about the new office space. Chair Fletcher and David Barbee expressed their interest in touring the office space. Dep. Chief of Staff Krull advised we can do the tour during the next board meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Fletcher thanked everyone for their attendance. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:



Robertiena Fletcher, Chair