

**Department of Human Services (DHS) Board Meeting
Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.
TEAMS LIVE**

Board members present: Chair Robertiena Fletcher, Vice Chair Randy Smith, Secretary Monica Walters, Dave Barbee, Scott Johnson, Wes Lewis, Jack Williams,

Board members absent: Lisa Hamilton, Rochard White

Also present: Commissioner Candice Broce

Chair Fletcher called the meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance report by Jackie Tate - Quorum met

Presentation by R. Demetrius Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Finance

Department of Human Services Amended Fiscal Year 2024 (AFY24) and State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) budget recommendations

- DHS has approximately \$1.9B allocated to protect and serve Georgia's vulnerable populations
- When including the budgets for our attached entities, the total for the Department's SFY24 budget is roughly \$2.1B
- On Aug. 2, 2023, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) issued instructions allowing agencies to submit budget enhancements of up to 3% for both the AFY24 and SFY25
- Agencies were asked to submit plans demonstrating opportunities for efficiencies to reduce agency spending by 1% in SFY25
- Agencies are also allowed to discuss with OPB ideas for one-time investment opportunities for consideration in the AFY24 budget
- Agency budget submissions, performance measures and Capital Outlay requests are due by Sept. 8, 2023
- DHS will submit enhancements of \$19.4M for both AFY24 and SFY25 and a reduction of \$6.4M to address efficiencies so in SFY25, the total adjustment will net \$12.9M
- State funds budget for AFY24 will be roughly \$939.5M and a little over \$933M in SFY25
- Enhancements include providing salary increases to address recruitment and retention for critical positions and turnover in DCSS; increasing funds for contractual services; providing funds for the \$tars modernization project; providing funds for a data repository to be utilized by child welfare case managers; providing funds to maintain and enhance the mCase mobile casework support application; providing funds to modernize and upgrade the SHINES system; providing funds for to improve communications among the parties that access our foster care portal; increasing funds for a community action treatment team pilot to aid in alleviating children having to enter foster care, providing funds for 8 financial examiners positions to help mitigate and reduce audit findings of

the mismanagement of funds; increasing funds for five critical positions for staff to maintain DHS facilities; increasing funds for improvements of SHINES in the cloud

- VC Randy Smith asked questions about whether we have lost money to support the need for the financial examiners and the actions taken regarding the individuals who have been accused of mismanagement of funds and stated he would like information on how much money has been lost based on past audits – Dep. Commissioner Taylor responded the information is turned over the state Inspector General's office for whatever action they deem appropriate
- Chair Fletcher acknowledged the concerns and asked for a future board meeting to include a presentation on Fraud and Abuse; she also asked what our preference is on leasing or owning facilities – Dep. Commissioner Taylor advised that decision lies with the State Properties Commission
- Dep. Commissioner Taylor continued with the enhancements for the budgets advising it also includes increasing funds to for repairs and necessary improvements for DHS operated facilities in Ben Hill, Houston, Gwinnett; Peach and Troup counties; providing funds to address the mandated mailings to clients; providing funds to ensure cyber-security across several state agencies; increasing funds to move vulnerable persons to safer locations and mitigate unsafe conditions; increasing funds to provide salary increases to APS, PGO and other critical Aging Services staff to address recruitment and retention challenges; APS and PGO caseloads have increased over 24% in the past 4 years; caseload ratios are currently 1:37 for APS and 1:34 for the PGO; increasing funds to replace the loss of federal funds for the Federal Eligibility Benefits System (FEBS) due to the end of the public health emergency; increasing funds for the Customer Contact Center to properly align with projected expenditures; increasing funds for fraud prevention and security enhancements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in both FEBS and Departmental Administration; providing funds to enhance the TRAILS records management system
- The totals for state fund changes/enhancements both the AFY24 and SFY25 are \$18,273,490
- For the required 1% agency reduction for DHS which equates to \$6,124,913, DHS made recommendations in the following areas: reducing funds to reflect the cost savings in agency rental space; reducing funds to reflect projected expenditures for information technology projects related to Medicaid Redetermination; reducing funds for the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children Assessment and Crisis Beds contract; reducing funds form out of schools programs in communities serving at risk youth; finally DHS recommended transferring the SNAP – EBT Transfers Unit from Departmental Administration to the FEBS
- DHS is submitting a non-bondable expenditure for a Capital Outlay request of a little less than \$116M for \$STARS – the child support system, which was built in 1994, CSG government solutions did a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis and provided the costs, which include developing, designing and implementing and testing the functionality of the \$TARS. Federal dollars of \$74.7M in Title IVD

funds will be used, the state funds/bonds need is roughly \$38.5M, one-time funds of \$2.7M in child support incentive funds

- The bond request will be \$30.9M; DHS currently has a total of \$7.5M in non-bond eligible expenditures and will be asking for additional increases over the next five years; the \$1.3M for SFY25 begins the requests for the additional increases to meet the non-bond eligible expenditures and will continue through SFY29
- Total state funds for our attached entities are \$1,189,332M for AFY24 and \$826,639M for SFY25
- Dep. Commissioner Taylor concluded the presentation and called on the Board for questions
- Chair Fletcher called on a motion to consider approval of the AFY24 and SFY25 budget recommendations
- Dave Barbee motioned to approve, VC Randy Smith seconded
- Chair Fletcher asked for discussion and a vote
- A quorum of Board members to include Robertiena Fletcher, Randy Smith, Wes Lewis, Jack Williams, Dave Barbee and Scott Johnson voted to approve the Department's budget recommendations for AFY24 and SFY25
- Chair Fletcher asked for remarks from Commissioner Broce
- Commissioner Broce thanked the Board for their approval
- Chair Fletcher conveyed her appreciation to the Board

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:


Robertiena Fletcher, Chair