

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 20, 2012**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tiena Fletcher, Chair  
Monica Walters, Secretary  
Lisa Alexander  
Frank Auman  
Scott Johnson

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Randy Smith  
Sandra Smith  
Ann White  
Jack Williams

Ms. Tiena Fletcher, Chair, called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 2:21p.m., June 20, 2012.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the May 16, 2012 meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Clyde L. Reese, III made the following report to the Board:

Abuse of the elderly is ongoing, not only in Georgia but across the country. This can take the form of financial, physical and emotional abuse as the population ages. The economy has worsened over the past few years and the incidents of elder abuse continue to rise. The Department of Human Services will continue to support preventative measures and upgrade the ability to enforce the laws against elder abuse.

In this past legislative session Representative Sharon Cooper introduced House Bill 1110. The bill gave new regulatory power to the Department of Community Health to address unlicensed personal care homes (these are usually the smaller homes where entrepreneurs house older residents and have taken over their financial activities). With the new legislation, the state will have the power to police these unlicensed personal care homes. Part of the legislation gave the Georgia Bureau of Investigation the authority to investigate and prosecute offenders of elder abuse. The Department of Human Services, along with the Department of Community Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities are going to be working with the GBI to create a taskforce to combat elder abuse, to educate law enforcement and communities on the laws and how they are to be applied. This is a very important initiative and the Board will be kept updated.

The budget cycle will soon begin for the 2013, 2014 amended budget. In August the Board will be presented with a budget for approval and move forward through the process. The Governor has repeatedly said he will be judicious about spending and wants to replenish the reserve funds. The Department will seek enhancements with regard to adult protective services and child welfare staff.

Effective July 1, 2012, Vocational Rehabilitation Services will be a stand-alone agency (Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency) that will be administratively attached to the Department of Human Services. Governor Deal has nominated Greg Schmieg as Executive Director of the Agency. Mr. Schmieg is currently director of the programs at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute. Keith Horton, Director of Child Support Services, will continue to serve as liaison to the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Negotiations are underway to finalize the memorandum of understanding with the Department of Labor for those functions they will continue to perform for the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

With regard to financial management, human resources, contracts and procurement and information technology, etc., DHS will assist in getting the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency up and running.

Commissioner Reese stated that Mr. Schmieg will be an excellent director and leader of the new agency. The goal that was set from the very beginning was to make this new agency/services one of the best of its kind in the country and the Department is pleased to have an opportunity to help make that happen.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Fletcher commented on the continued successful transition of the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to the Department of Human Services. She is also pleased to hear that the Department is going to request additional funds to aid in services for the elderly.

There being no comments or questions, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

### **THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services will be Wednesday, July 20, 2012, Two Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 29.250, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

  
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**Monica Walters, Secretary**

**APPROVED:**

  
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**Tiena Fletcher, Chair**