**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 17, 2015**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tiena Fletcher, Chair Randy Smith

Frank Auman, Vice Chair Jack Williams

Monica Walters, Secretary Lisa Alexander

Judy Brownell

Scott Johnson

Chair Tiena Fletcher called the Department of Human Services’ (DHS) Board meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. on June 17, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the February 18, 2015, April 15, 2015, and the May 15, 2015 Board meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Vote to Release for Initial Public Comment Proposed Rule related to Recovery and Administration of Child Support

* Tanguler Gray, DCSS Director, presented the following to the Board:

**The** Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support Services (the Department) proposes amendments to Chapter 290-7-1 related to recovery and administration of child support. Copies of the proposed rule and a synopsis detailing the main features of the proposed rules have been circulated to all members of the Board.

**PURPOSE FOR REVISING RULES**

**The** proposed amendments affect chapter sections: 290-7-1-.03, 290-7-1-.04, 290-7-1-.05, 290-7-1-.06, and 290-7-1-.10. Adoption of these amendments will assist the Department in providing enforcement services. First, amendments to 290-7-1-.05, 290-7-1.06, and 290-7-1-.10 will set out procedural changes concerning review and modifications and electronic submission of Federal Income Withholding (FIW) documents. Secondly, amendments to 290-7-1-.03, 290-7-1-.04, and 290-7-1-.05 will enable the Department to comply with HB 568 by instituting procedures that assist with the requirement of genetic testing prior to establishment of child support cases.

It is not anticipated that the adoption of these rule amendments would impose excessive regulatory cost on any client and it is not foreseeable that any cost to comply with the proposed amendments can be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the duties required of the Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support Services.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

Chair Tiena Fletcher moved that the proposed Amendment to the Rules and Regulations related to Recovery and Administration of Child Support, be approved for initial release for public comment. The public comment period shall end one week prior to the public hearing. A public hearing will be held at the Department on a date to be determined in the Board Room on the 29th floor of 2 Peachtree Street. Based upon any oral or written comments, the Board will consider the proposed rule for final adoption at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 26, 2015.

The motion was made and approved that the proposed rule be released for public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Vote to Release for Initial Public Comment Proposed Rule Authorizing Consumer Reports for Foster Care Youth ages 14 and over

* Harold Johnson, Acting General Counsel, presented the following to the Board:

**The** Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (the Department) proposes an amendment to 290-1-8-.02 related to Consumer Reports (Credit Reports) to be Obtained for Youth in Foster Care authorizing the Department to obtain consumer reports (credit reports) for children in the custody of the Department, who have attained the age of 16 and to assist these youth in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies. An amendment to this rule will permit the Department to comply with Section 113(b)(2)(B) of PL 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. Copies of the proposed rule and a synopsis detailing the main features of the proposed rules have been circulated to all members of the Board.

**PURPOSE FOR REVISING RULES**

O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-43 permits the Board of the Department of Human Services to adopt rules as regulations necessary to prevent conflict with federal law or the loss of federal funds as a result of Article 5 of Chapter 49 of the Official Code of Georgia annotated. This change is being proposed following the amendment of 42 USC Section 675(5)(I). Section 113(b)(2)(B) of PL 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, amended 42 USC Section 675(5)(I) to require that, as a part of the case plan requirements, under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, each child in foster care who has reached the age of 14 receive a credit report annually and receive assistance in interpreting the report and correcting any inaccuracies. Previously, the age at which children in care were required to begin receiving credit reports was 16. This change is necessary for Division of Family and Children Services to remain compliant with the requirements of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Beginning credit monitoring for youth in foster care at a younger age will aid the State in capturing inaccuracies in credit reports for these youth at an earlier period.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

Chair Tiena Fletcher moved that the proposed Amendment to the Rules and Regulations Authorizing Consumer Reports for Foster Care Youth, be approved for initial release for public comment. The public comment period shall end one week prior to the public hearing. A public hearing will be held at the Department on a date to be determined in the Board Room on the 29th floor of 2 Peachtree Street. Based upon any oral or written comments, the Board will consider the proposed rule for final adoption at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 26, 2015.

The motion was made and approved that the proposed rule be released for public comment

**CONFIRMATION OF THE NEW DHS COMMISSIONER**

Chair Tiena Fletcher introduced Robyn A. Crittenden to be confirmed as the new DHS Commissioner. Robyn A. Crittenden stood and expressed her pleasure to be in attendance and her excitement to be coming aboard to continue the good work that DHS has done and to work with the Board and the staff. She personally thanked Commissioner Horton for his assistance during the transition.

The motion was made and approved that Robyn A. Crittenden be confirmed as the new Commissioner for the Department of Human Services.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Commissioner Keith Horton stated that he has been with the department for nine (9) years and it has been a pleasure learning so much and working with so many great folks. He commented on how much he has learned and grown personally. He stated that the last two (2) years has been an absolute blessing to work with DFCS, Child Support, and Aging. He commented that he is leaving to go to the Department of Juvenile Justice and is very excited about Robyn coming on board and taking this Agency to the next level.

Thus concluded the Commissioner’s report.

**CHAIR’S REPORT & PRESENTATION**

Chair Tiena Fletcher congratulated and welcomed Robyn A. Crittenden and stated to Commissioner Horton that with mixed emotions, this is not goodbye but more like see you later. Chair Tiena Fletcher read and presented the following resolution honoring Commissioner Horton:

**A RESOLUTION**

**Keith V. Horton**

**WHEREAS:** Keith V. Horton has diligently served the people of Georgia and the Department of Human Services as Commissioner since his appointment by Governor Nathan Deal effective on July 1, 2013; and

**WHEREAS:** Upon assuming his duties as Commissioner, he has worked tirelessly with great vision and energy to serve and foster services being delivered to the citizens of Georgia with great dignity and respect; he has encouraged self-sufficiency for able-bodied individuals and channeled structured practices to connect them with employment opportunities: and

**WHEREAS:** Commissioner Horton has placed great emphasis on the development of employees, instituting both the DHS Leadership Academy for management and the DHS LEAD Academy to develop those in supervisory roles; and

**WHEREAS:** Quickly recognizing that community involvement is both vital and needed, Commissioner Horton has led efforts to both educate communities and garner their support (in partnership with DHS) to address the needs of the citizens served through the agency, a vision resulting in the creation of the DHS Faith & Community Alliance; and

**WHEREAS:** Recognizing the importance of interagency collaborations, Commissioner Horton has championed the expansion of the department’s re-entry program, now in all 13 Department of Corrections transitional centers; as well as the initiation and piloting of two CHINS (Children in Need of Services) courts to serve Georgia’s most vulnerable families and children in partnership with the Juvenile Courts; and

**WHEREAS:** Serving as the Chief Executive Officer for the department, Commissioner Horton has provided timely and relevant communication to the Board, keeping them abreast of the issues and accomplishments of the department.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the members of the Board of Human Services do hereby express their appreciation to Commissioner Keith V. Horton for his dedicated service to the people of the State of Georgia and the Department of Human Services, commend him for his leadership and genuine servant hood, and wish him much personal and professional success in his future endeavors; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Commissioner Keith V. Horton and become a part of the permanent, official minutes of this meeting and of the Board of Human Services.

This 17th day of June, 2015.

Chair Tiena Fletcher wished Commissioner Horton well and asked if there were any other board comments. Vice Chair Frank Auman commented that he has been on the board since 2007 and has seen a few commissioners’ come and seen lots of Department heads, and many of them being dedicated compassionate professionals, but had never personally witnessed anybody anymore so than Commissioner Horton. It is no fluke that he rose through the ranks of this Department from small responsibilities to ever increasing responsibilities based on merit and the work that he did. We all wonder over time if we have made a difference in this world and left something behind that mattered. If you ever wonder that, call me and I will remind you of what you did. Secretary Monica Walters commented that he did an effective job and we wish him well. Board Member Judy Brownell commented that your talents are wonderful for where you are going. Board Member Scott Johnson stated we look forward to continuing to work with you in ways that agencies work together and thank you for all you have done.

Chair Tiena Fletcher thanked everyone all being here today and thanked all the presenters for today’s presentations. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.

**THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

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**APPROVED:**

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**Tiena Fletcher, Chairperson**