

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MEETING MINUTES**

**November 15, 2017  
11:30 a.m.  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robertiena Fletcher, Chair  
Monica Walters, Secretary  
Judy Brownell  
Scott Johnson  
David Barbee

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Frank Auman, Vice Chair  
Lisa Alexander  
Randall Smith  
Jack Williams

Also present, Commissioner Robyn A. Crittenden.

Chair Robertiena Fletcher called the Board of Human Services' meeting to order at 2:47 p.m. on November 15, 2017.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was presented by David Barbee and seconded by Monica Walters that the minutes of the August 23, 2017 Board meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. A motion was presented by Judy Brownell and seconded by Scott Johnson to approve for initial release for public comment proposed rule amendments to Chapter 290-7-1-.05 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Human Services related to Recovery and Administration of Child Support, Fees and Collection Procedures, for the period of December 1, 2017, through December 30, 2017; thereafter, that a public hearing be held on January 10, 2018, in the Board Room on the 29th floor of 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia; and, based upon any oral or written comments received, that the Board will consider the proposed rules for final adoption at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 14, 2018. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

2. A motion was presented by David Barbee and seconded by Scott Johnson to approve the Resolution of the Board of Human Services with Respect to Approval of Real Property Acquisition from the City of Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia, as presented on November 15, 2017. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.
3. A motion was presented by Scott Johnson and seconded by David Barbee to adopt the Senior Hunger State Plan as presented to the Board on November 15, 2017. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.
4. The Chair asked for discussion of the 2018 schedule of meetings of the Board of Human Services. The Chair set the 2018 meetings to occur quarterly as follows:
  - February 14, 2018
  - May 16, 2018
  - August 22, 2018
  - November 14, 2018
5. A motion was presented by Monica Walters and seconded by Scott Johnson to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters as permitted under O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (b) (2). There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed. The Board entered executive session from 2:54 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Minutes regarding this executive session are on record with the Secretary of the Board of Human Services. Following the executive session, Chair Fletcher took a statement from Scott Johnson who noted that the Board took no actions during the executive session.
6. A motion was presented by Scott Johnson and seconded by David Barbee to approve a 2% Merit Increase for Commissioner Crittenden. There being no further discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Crittenden began her report applauding the opening of the Gwinnett County facility that will serve as a home to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS). The Commissioner thanked the Gwinnett County DHS staff for hosting both the board meeting and the successful ribbon cutting ceremony which took place earlier in the morning. She noted that the beautiful, innovative facility will allow the families of Gwinnett County to feel cared for and important.

Commissioner Crittenden provided an update on the ongoing Listen and Learn Tour. The 2017 Listen and Learn Tour is a series of stakeholder meetings and events which promote constituent engagement in the regions where the Department of Human

Services provides services to vulnerable Georgians. Executive leadership spends one to four days in each region, meeting with local staff, legislators, senior centers, hospitals, educational institutions, judges, law enforcement and other key stakeholders to engage in dialogue about how to work collaboratively to serve Georgia's children, families and older adults. In regions where a shorter time is spent, Commissioner Crittenden prioritizes meetings with local staff. The Commissioner reported that nearly every scheduled stop has been accomplished this year. She stated that as a part of the Department's continued efforts to build a robust workforce, it is imperative to hear from staff about both the strengths of the Department as well as areas where growth can be accomplished.

The Commissioner further highlighted the success of constituent engagement events surrounding Fatherhood Conversations. She noted that these conversations encourage dialogue regarding the child support program from the local community.

The Department has earned a host of competitive awards. The Commissioner acknowledged the Division of Child Support Services and Office of Information Technology for national recognition on the mobile child support application. She predicted that next year DHS will be able to announce the receipt of an award for Georgia Gateway.

The Commissioner announced that the Legislative Session will kick off in January 2018. The Commissioner stated that the Board will be updated regarding relevant legislation affecting DHS.

The Commissioner shared that during the first week of December 2017, she will travel along with members of the Division of Aging Services, and members of Georgia Tech's Tools for Life to Washington, D. C. to meet with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Community Living to discuss the State's innovative work with assistive technology.

Commissioner Crittenden recognized the strong Senior Leadership Team at DHS and congratulated former DFCS director, Bobby Cagle on his new position in California. She also welcomed interim director Virginia Pryor to the team. She stated that Georgia has been known as the best State in the Nation for Business. This goal, she noted, has been taken on at DHS, and stronger families for a stronger Georgia are being built. The Commissioner added that DHS strives to be the best Human Services Department in the Country.

Lastly, the Commissioner wished everyone Happy Holidays. The Commissioner stated that many holiday events are planned at DHS. The Commissioner reminded everyone of the Division of Family and Children Services' partnership with Clark Howard and the Commissioner's Annual Secret Santa Cookie Party which will ensure that all children in the State's care will have a great holiday. The Commissioner also noted that the Division of Aging will be collecting gifts for all individuals for which DHS serves as guardian. The Commissioner applauded the Office of Budget Administration, under the

leadership of Demetrius Taylor, who chose to forego their Christmas party to assist with preparing gifts for the children under the Department's care.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chair Fletcher presented a certificate of recognition to Frances Richards for her exemplary service as Director of Office of Facilities and Support Services. The Commissioner joined in applauding the efforts of Ms. Richards in assisting with Georgians with a fire in the Augusta Office and the tremendous assistance she gave during Hurricane Irma. Chair Fletcher additionally recognized Daniel Pitchford, Leticia Mathis, Jennifer Hogan, and Samuel Doyle, whose efforts supporting Georgians during Hurricane Irma ensured that families would be safe. The Commissioner stated that this collective team worked seamlessly during this time. A certificate was also presented to Gwenyth Johnson for her efforts in combatting senior hunger in Georgia. The Commissioner added that Ms. Johnson took on the task of combatting Senior Hunger and her efforts have provided invaluable assistance to DHS in this venture. Chair Fletcher thanked the group for their dedication to building stronger families for a stronger Georgia.

Chair Fletcher concluded that the Georgia Department of Human Services is the best Human Services program in the Country and wished everyone an enjoyable Holiday Season.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

### **THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 2 Peachtree Street in Atlanta, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**Monica Walters, Secretary**

**APPROVED:**

  
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**Robertiena Fletcher, Chair**