

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 21, 2015
1:00 p.m.
Atlanta, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tiena Fletcher, Chair
Frank Auman, Vice Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
Judy Brownell
Jack Williams – *via Conference Call*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Scott Johnson
Randy Smith
Lisa Alexander

Chair Tiena Fletcher called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 2:53 p.m. on October 21, 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the August 26, 2015 Board meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The Chair asked the Board for a motion that the Proposed Rule Amendments to Rules and Regulations 290-7-1-.04 be approved for initial release for public comment and that the comment period for 290-7-1-.05 related to Recovery and Administration of Child Support be extended. Based on public comment, the Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for final adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting. There being no further discussion, the motion was made and seconded, the vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.
2. The Chair asked Ann Williams and Melanie McNeil the State Long Term Care Ombudsman to come forward. Chair Fletcher read and presented Ann Williams with a commendation by the Governor of the State of Georgia for receiving the prestigious Janet Tulloch Memorial Advocacy Award by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Crittenden greeted the DHS Board members, Guest and DHS team members. She thanked all of the presenters today for the great presentations. Commissioner formally introduced two new members to the DHS Team, Tonya Curry, General Counsel who is an experienced attorney and has practiced law for over 20 years. Bill Prescott who joins as the new Director of Purchasing and Contracts, Bill is also an attorney and has extensive transactional experience both as a lawyer and working with purchasing and contracting team. Both joined the team last Friday and have already begun to make contributions to DHS. Commissioner thanked Harold Johnson and Bernie Joy who served in acting capacity for the two roles. Commissioner announced in connection with staff news that Deputy Commissioner Lynn Vellinga, and Inspector General Terry Hamrick both retired at the end of September. She stated that both made many innumerable contributions to the agency many more that can be listed here today. We wish them well in their retirement. She commented that as you see Terry left her team in good hands, Charles Hicks is the interim Inspector General and doing a great job.

Commissioner stated during the Child Support presentation that Director Tan Gray commented that her team had reached the 90% threshold for paternity testing. Commissioner commented that they have worked tirelessly to reach this goal and we want to commend them for the hard work and diligence. She introduced Clarence Burge and Pat Smith are members of the team.

Commissioner commented that Frank did not focus enough on how hard our team worked on Hurricane Joaquin. She commended Frank, Sherry Calhoun, Danny Pitchford and the entire team who were stationed at the State Operations Center and staying there 24 hours to help and ensure we were covered.

Commissioner stated that one of the Division of Child Support Service's Outreach programs is the Problem Solving Courts and it continues to surpass all expectations. As you know problem solving courts seeks to remove underlying issues that cause non-custodial parents to become chronic non-payers of child support, these participants are important to keeping our numbers up. The program provides alternatives to incarceration to the non-custodial parents. We currently have 22 courts either up and running or about to launch, and one that should be up in the next six months and two that have already committed subject to funding for the next fiscal year. I would like commend Tan, Reed Kimbrough, and the rest of their team, Clarence Burge, Susan Crosby, Pat Smith, Kristi Stone and each of the PSC Coordinators. Commissioner stated we truly appreciate all of their very hard work. When speaking with the Chair recently, we talked about the board might enjoy attending some of the graduations and launches so we are going to put together a calendar with dates and if they are in your areas if you can attend they are free. Commissioner commented she would

strongly encourage you to attend, and stated that she has tried attend each and every one of them no matter the distance. She stated how inspiring to hear the stories from the graduates and the opportunities for empowerment when they launch a new court for the non-custodial parents. We will share those dates as well as the dates for the Road Shows that Director Cagle mentioned. Commissioner commented that we do other things through-out the state so we will put together a calendar and get it out to you to keep you informed of things going on.

Commissioner stated that last month our Senior Leadership Team spent two days at a Strategic Planning Retreat and during this session, we spent time exploring our mission and vision and decided that they are still relevant in what we strive to do. We concentrated very heavily on our Vision which is Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia. We identified four areas that we could focus on this year and created teams that will look at tasks and goals for each one. Those areas are workforce development, culture, continuous process improvement and technology. She commented that the teams are working on these areas and we will plan to share more information with you in the near future. Commissioner also stated the team is looking to do a service project together and will let you know about that as well.

Commissioner encourages everyone to like our Facebook page. She stated that it has a wealth of information, since our last meeting, just to name a few things, the page has highlighted the following: safe sleep campaign, take another look which encourages you to check the back seat to ensure you are not leaving a child in the car, employees are wearing pink for breast cancer and purple for domestic violence on Thursdays, the DFCS Road Shows, Kinship Care program, Wednesday's Child, PSC Kick-offs and Graduation's, SNAP information, the Slip and Fall campaign, job opportunities and a host of other information and activities that are going in through-out the agency. Commissioner also commented how she had the opportunity to join Pete the Cat and to read to the Pre-K kids for Voice for Children about two weeks ago. Commissioner thanked Ashley Fielding, Simone Williams and her team for all they do.

Commissioner announced that next month we will join the State and recognize our Veterans and present all of our veterans with a certificate and the State will have special certificates for our Vietnam Veterans as well.

Commissioner commented that being an agency that does so much to help people, we can't help but to have people that have big helping hearts. This month, we have been avid participants in the State Charitable Contributions Campaign. She commented that as you came in you probably saw the billboard in the lobby with all of the flyers for various activities in support of the program. Commissioner stated that we are really hoping to increase our giving both in dollar amount and in participation from last year. We continue to do the good

work that is done here to help create Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia. We have an excellent team and I take pride in being able to work along-side them.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

Chair Tiena Fletcher commented you do have an excellent team, we have so often said that. She stated the agency does awesome work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:

Tiena Fletcher, Chairperson