

**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES**

**July 17, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tiena Fletcher, Chair
Frank Auman, Vice Chair
Monica Walters, Secretary
Scott Johnson
Randy Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lisa Alexander
Sandra Smith
Jack Williams

Chair Tiena Fletcher called the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Board meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on July 17, 2013.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Keith Horton introduced the new leadership team as follows:
Renorta Heard, Deputy Commissioner
Lynn Vellinga, Deputy Commissioner
Tangler Gray-Johnson, Director of Child Support Services
Ashley Fielding, Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications
Dr. Sharon Hill, Director of DFCS
Demetrius Taylor, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Arlanda Pickett, Acting Director of Contracts and Procurement
Robert Nibbs, Director of Strategic Planning and Execution

The Commissioner stated he was much honored to have the opportunity to serve in this position. His vision and goal for the department is accountability. Accountability of our employees and accountability to the customers we serve.

He then gave a power point presentation to the Board (see attached Presentation to DHS Board). Some of those highlights are:

Initiatives

- Develop contract process that includes duties, roles and timeline
- Review all contracts for duplication and waste, over 6500 DHS contracts
- Document and publish all financial processes
- Explore ways to leverage existing funding

Child Welfare, "Get out of Kenny A Consent Decree"

The funds set aside for the Kenny A Consent Decree was \$11,000,000. Currently fees are amounting to approximately \$900,000 per year, so those funds are almost depleted. A priority for the Commissioner is to get out of the Kenny A Consent Decree, not only for financial reasons, but for other reasons as well.

DHS "Breakdown Silo's and Become One Agency"

To accomplish this, the Commissioner will conduct leadership meetings on a regular basis with all DHS executive leaders to discuss ways to leverage resources that would benefit the Department in providing services to the citizens of Georgia. The goal is to have our customers become independent self-sufficient.

Preparation for new laws

The Juvenile Justice Reform will go into effect January 1, 2014. DFCS will have a role because there are many young adults who are low offenders in the community and will be served by the community. The Governor has set aside funds (approximately \$6,000,000) for that particular point and we are targeting communities across the state.

This will not serve the entire state, so DFCS will serve as a provider for the juveniles that will not be incarcerated. In preparation of the calls we will receive from citizens (starting October 1st) with questions to determine if they are eligible, we are developing an Integrated Eligibility System. The prior administration, as well as others, made the determination that we would build a system as opposed to outsourcing. Venkat Krishnan, DHS Chief of Information and Technology has the responsibility of building that system for the state of Georgia. The goal is to have the system up and running on January 1, 2014.

Attack Fraud, Waste and Abuse

DHS will be very aggressive in the prosecution of individuals and establishments that abuse the system. Our goal is to ensure that our children and the elderly are not victims of fraud, waste and abuse.

Commissioner Horton closed by saying the goal is to have DHS known as the agency that help people become self sufficient and get back to work, not the agency that gives handouts.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and to the Commissioner for his vision.

Board Member Scott Johnson thanked the DHS staff for the Celebration of Excellence program which he attended a few weeks ago. The program recognizes children in foster care that are graduates of high school and colleges. Particularly graduates of high school that have many negatives against them, but they persevere and graduate against the odds.

Mr. Scott said it was a very inspiring evening and wanted to recognize the students and those who were instrumental in putting on this program.

The Chair congratulated the Commissioner on his appointment and to the new leadership team and look forward to working with them in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Human Services is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at Two Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 29.250, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Monica Walters, Secretary

APPROVED:

Tiena Fletcher, Chairperson