

# MUSCOGEE COUNTY DFCS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

The Muscogee County Department of Family and Children Services' Board met on Thursday, April 26, 2018 @ 8:46 am. Present for the board meeting: Board Members Mrs. Charonda Huff, Mrs. Jennifer Melvin, Mrs. Tolua Puailoa, Dr. Deepali Agarwal, and Mrs. Story-Jones by telephone; staff present: Teresa Hughes, Interim County Director, Ms. Deedra Ligon, OFI Administrator, Ms. Rhonda Wingfield, Foster Care Program Director, Mr. Corey Neal, Program Operations Manager, and Mrs. DeAngela Collins, Executive Assistant.

## The Board Approved the Following:

- The March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minutes were reviewed and approved.

## Economic Support Services Report:

Ms. Ligon gave the Economic Support Services Report. There are two open supervisor positions and one secretary posted to hire. The economic support staff is having a difficult time adjusting to Gateway and need to make improvements. The economic support staff are expected to have a complete transition by the end of June with a 96% for all programs. Ms. Ligon reports that there have been numerous problems with Gateway statewide and needs to be addressed at a higher level. Food and Nutrition Service came to Muscogee to look at the system and see how it is serving the community. Overall, FNS visit went well and stated that Muscogee staff was very professional. OFI is still focusing on improving customer service with a lot of inhouse training.

## Financial Report:

Mr. Neal gave the Financial Report. The March County Fund Expenditures include 15,978.57 being spent during the month of march, leaving the remaining balance of \$25,521.43. In Direct Benefits to Clients, \$636,563.15 was spend during the month of March, bringing the YTD balance of spent benefits to \$5,176,301.23.

## Personnel Report:

Mr. Neal gave the Personnel Report. There is still a statewide hiring freeze. Director Hughes is still pushing to get special approval for staff, if not beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been 0 new hires, 1 promotion that was in the works before the hiring freeze, 4 voluntary resignations, 1 termination, 0 retirement and 1 transfer out. Being that the four resignations were all from services, the caseloads have increased. Thankfully, the case managers are still able to manage so far and supervisors are going out, it's an "all hands-on deck."

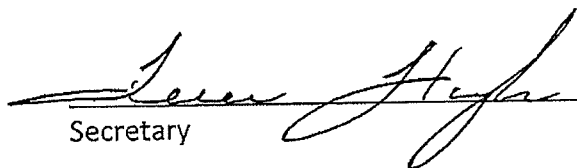
## Social Services Report:

Mr. Neal and Ms. Wingfield gave the Social Services Report. Mr. Neal reported that currently, there are 93 open investigations, 102 family support cases, 106 open ongoing/Family preservation cases and 11 safety resource cases. Ms. Wingfield reported that there are currently 464 children in foster care in Muscogee County. The permanency staff have an average of 25-32 cases per worker. Ms. Wingfield reports that there is still a shortage of foster care homes and that there are a lot of relative placements. Next month is Foster care awareness month and Ms. Wingfield and staff are pushing to have a huge celebration.

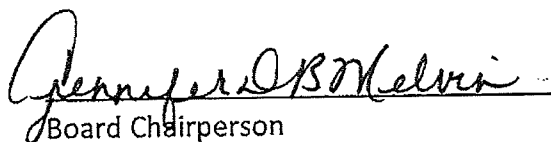
**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Chair and Vice Chair voting – each board member was able to vote for a chair and vice chair representative.
- After a tallying of the votes, Mrs. Jennifer Melvin was appointed Chair and Mrs. Story Jones was appointed Vice Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.

 6-21-18  
Secretary Date

**APPROVED:**

 6-21-18  
Board Chairperson Date



Muscogee County DFCS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room  
2100 Comer Avenue  
Columbus, Ga 31902  
June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

## Muscogee County DFCS Board Agenda

### Business/Vote

- Approval of Minutes for April 26, 2018 and May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### Director's Report

- Financial Report
- Personnel Report
- Economic Support Services Monthly Report
- Social Services Monthly Report
  - Foster Care/Permanency
  - CPS

### New Business

- Introduction of County Director

### Schedule Next Meeting

- July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018