



# Minutes for Muscogee County Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Board

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## Call to Order

- Muscogee County Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Board (GA DFCS) Meeting was held on April 17, 2019, at the Muscogee County GA DFCS office, 2100 Comer Avenue, Columbus, GA 31904.
- Meeting began 12:22 PM and was presided over by Jena Jones.
- There was no quorum for this meeting.

## Attendees

- Voting members in attendance included Charonda Huff and Jennifer Melvin (by phone).
- Georgia Division of Family and Children Services staff in attendance included LaCharn Dennard, South District Director, Shannon Fields, Region 8 Director, Jena Jones, Muscogee County Director, Cherry Jones, Safety Program Director, Deedre Ligon, OFI Administrator, Tanya Meeks, OFI Administrator, Corey Neal, Program Operation Manager, DeAngela Collins, Executive Secretary, and Denise L. Thompson-Mosley, Executive Assistant.
- Members not in attendance were Tolua Puailoa and Barbara Storey-Jones.

## Approval of minutes from last meeting

- There was no vote on the minutes from the March 21, 2019, meeting because there was no quorum.

### **Finance Report and Operations— Corey Neal**

- There is \$15,000 left in general assistance.
  - This balance is appropriate at this point in the fiscal year.
- Members of the DHS Office of Procurement and Contracts (OPC) will be coming to Muscogee County Thursday, April 18, 2019, to supervise the bidding process for the new janitorial contract.
- Red Cross shelter training was on April 4, 2019.
- The landlord will turn off the water in the building on Monday, April 22, 2019, to fix a problem.
  - This date was chosen because April 22, 2019, is observed as a “State Holiday” and all the offices will be closed.
- Corey is working to finalize the active shooter protocol and training with the other tenants of the building.

### **Personnel Report – Jena Jones**

- There was one new hire in Child Welfare (CW), a promotion from Office of Family Independence (OFI).
- There were two transfers – one to State Office and one to a county in Region 10.
- Interviews were held April 10, 2019, and April 11, 2019, to fill vacant CW case manager positions.
- Questions were raised about personnel matters:
  - Is it necessary to obtain approvals to fill vacated positions?
  - Has there been a hiring freeze over the last two years?
  - Is there a current hiring freeze?
- There was no hiring freeze but a slow down due to budget constraints.

### **Office of Family Independence (OFI) Report – Tanya Meeks and Deedre Ligon**

- The district exceeded State and district goals.

- The Standard of Promptness (SOP) for Expedited Food Stamps has improved significantly since last month but still does not meet the Federal target percentage.

#### **Permanency Report – Cherry Jones**

- The report was read by Ms. Jones.

#### **Safety Report – Cherry Jones**

- Ms. Jones is excited about the additional staff recently hired.
- Currently six people are deployed to Muscogee County from all over Region 8 to assist with case management.
- Ms. Jones thanked LaCham Dennard, District Director and Shannon Fields, Regional Director for the assistance.

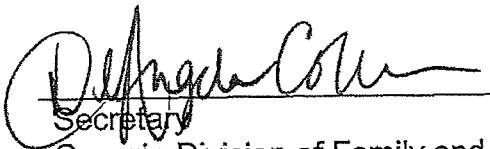
#### **Director's Report – Jena Jones**

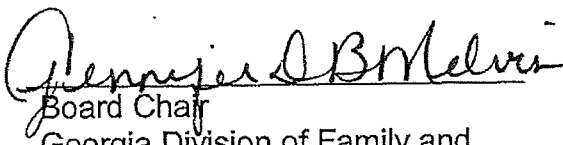
- CD Jones has selected two potential new members but would like to wait until all board members are present to discuss the names and qualifications.
  - There will be a meeting, either conference call or in-person, scheduled when all current board members are available.
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
  - Governor Kemp signed a proclamation at a ceremony on April 1, 2019.
  - The color is blue, and the symbol is the blue pinwheel.
  - Several DFCS offices plant "pinwheel gardens" around the signs in front lawns of offices.
  - To encourage awareness, all DFCS employees were encouraged to wear blue on Friday, April 5, 2019. There was a social media campaign as well and the photos can be found with the hashtags #GeorgiaBlue19 and #wearbluegeorgia.
  - Different events are planned across the state to bring attention to the issue.
  - CD Jones has been invited to attend a ceremony hosted by Mayor Skip Henderson of Columbus on April 30, 2019, at the Columbus Consolidated

Government Center. There, he will sign a proclamation commemorating National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 12:40 PM.

  
Secretary  
Georgia Division of Family and  
Children Services Muscogee County  
Board

  
Board Chair  
Georgia Division of Family and  
Children Services Muscogee  
County Board