



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

Call to Order

- Muscogee County Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Board (GA DFCS) Meeting was held on January 17, 2019, at the Muscogee County GA DFCS office, 2100 Comer Avenue, Columbus, GA 31904.
- Meeting began 12:11 PM and was presided over by Jennifer Melvin.

Attendees

- Voting members in attendance included Jennifer Melvin, Tolua Puailoa, and Barbara Storey-Jones
- Georgia Division of Family and Children Services staff in attendance included Jena Jones, Muscogee County Director, Cherry Jones, Safety Program Director, Deedre Ligon, OFI Administrator, Corey Neal, Program Operation Manager, DeAngela Collins, Executive Secretary, and Denise L. Thompson-Mosley, Executive Assistant.
- Members not in attendance were Dr. Agarwal and Charonda Huff.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

- A motion was made for the December meeting minutes to be approved. It was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Finance Report – Corey Neal

- The only significant in change in money spent since the last meeting is in General Assistance.

- Staff are adjusting to the new software, HR PASS. Methods are steadily improving and there has been a decrease in the time taken to on-board.
- The DFCS job website is www.dhsjobs.gov.

Office of Family Independence (OFI) – Deedre Ligon

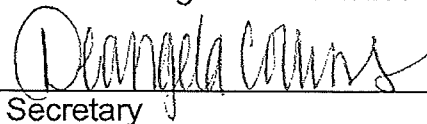
- The decrease in performance numbers is because of DSNAP administration.
 - 28% of OFI staff traveled to southwest Georgia to help with DSNAP.
 - There are plans in place to improve the timeliness numbers. The first goal is to increase timeliness to 90%.
- February benefits for clients were released on January 14, 2019, due to the partial government shutdown.
 - Families must manage their February funds until the March benefits are deposited on their cards – about 60 days.
 - DFCS staff are speaking to families about budgeting.
 - If people are not able to budget the benefits well, there could be issues with food insecurity. There will be additional strain on food banks through March.
 - The agency has placed signage all around the service window and waiting areas to warn people of the 60 day span they will be waiting for additional benefits.
 - There is a social media campaign as well.
 - All applications and renewals received by January 11, 2019, were eligible for early February release.
 - There are 38,254 people who receive Food Stamps in Muscogee County.
- Early disbursement of February benefits has not affected the way Food Stamp work being done.
- TANF benefits are unaffected because they are paid from a different funding source.

Permanency Report – Denise L. Thompson-Mosley

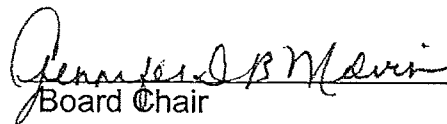
- Once the schedule is received for the rest of the year, it will be forwarded to the board members.
- Muscogee County DFCS would like to start a co-ed softball team and join the city league.
 - This will be a team building event for staff and their families.
 - A good way to encourage camaraderie and fitness – fun, after work stress reliever.
 - The first season, the team will register in the D-league to make sure the competition is appropriate.
 - The first interest meeting is Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at 2:00 PM.
 - The invitation has been extended to all the employees working in the Health and Human Services Building, including Department of Health (DPH) and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).
 - Board members are welcome to participate as well. Ms. Melvin expressed interest.
 - The registration fees are about \$400. Team shirts can be purchased for about \$100.
 - The agency request is \$500 for the softball team building activity.
 - Ms. Storey-Jones moved to authorize \$600 for the proposed softball team.
 - Ms. Puailoa seconded the motion and it was affirmed by a unanimous vote.
- CD Jones is considering other team building activities.
 - Employees have suggested a bicycle club, or kickball

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12:59 PM.



Secretary
Georgia Division of Family and
Children Services Muscogee County
Board



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