



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 March 21, 2019, at the Muscogee County GA DFCS office, 2100 Comer Avenue, Columbus, GA 31904.
- Meeting began 12:12 PM and was presided over by Jena Jones.
- CD Jones introduced the new Regional Director, Shannon Fields.
- Regional Director Shannon Fields is excited to be here and is looking forward to moving Region 8 in the right path.

Attendees

- Voting members in attendance included Jennifer Melvin, Charonda Huff, and Barbara Story-Jones.
- Georgia Division of Family and Children Services staff in attendance included Shannon Fields, Regional Director, Jena Jones, Muscogee County Director, Cherry Jones, Safety Program Director, Rhonda Wingfield, Permanency Director, Jackie Murry, HR Generalist, Deedre Ligon, OFI Administrator, Tanya Meeks, OFI Administrator, Felicia Evans, OFI Supervisor, Kimberly Brundidge, TANF Supervisor, Boniface Achu, Data Manager, Latoya Anderson, CPS Supervisor Corey Neal, Program Operation Manager, Deborah Nolan, Community Coordinator and DeAngela Collins, Executive Secretary.
- Member not in attendance was Tolua Puailoa.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

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

Finance Report – Corey Neal

- The county funds are being monitored closely and we are stretching until the new fiscal year.
- We have sent over the agency request for appropriation for FY20 to the Columbus Consolidated Government.
- We will be informed of the recommended appropriations for the agency per CCG.

Emergency Response Unit – Corey Neal

- There will be an American Red Cross training facilitated by Sam Doyle on April 4, 2019.
 - The training will instruct DFCS employees on how to assist with shelter.
- The Emergency Response Unit allows the county to know which individuals are to mandate the shelters.
 - There are different tiers; tier one, tier two, and tier three.
 - Corey Neal and Tamara Bowser-Brock goes through the initial first 24 hours.
 - Which allows the initial setup of the system to be intact.

Office of Family Independence (OFI) Report – Deedre Ligon

- SNAP SOP as of 3/15/19:
 - Un-Expedite: 81.78%
 - Expedite: 98.13%
- Staff are in training to learn both program areas.
 - Additional programs result in additional money for staff.

Personnel Report – Jackie Murray/Shannon Fields

- There have been no new hires in Child Welfare or OFI.

- There was one resignation due to an opportunity for growth for an employee.
- There has been one promotion from Admin Support to Social Services Specialist.
- There are two transfers out.
- Yesterday five positions were posted.
- Director Rollins will allow CD Jones to backfield.

Permanency Report – Rhonda Wingfield

- PD Wingfield reported that there are currently 424 children in foster care in Muscogee County.
- The permanency staff have an average of 34-48 cases per worker.
- New worker will be done with training on April 1, 2019.
- Muscogee County has finalized 58 adoptions in the last six months.

Safety Report – Cherry Jones

- PD Jones reported that there are currently 74 open investigations, 160 family support cases, 114 ongoing/family preservation cases, and 4 safety resource cases.
- Both newly hired case managers are in training.
 - They will be done with training on May 1.
- The Safety supervisor who volunteered to deploy to Augusta, GA, Amitrice Davidson, has returned to Muscogee.

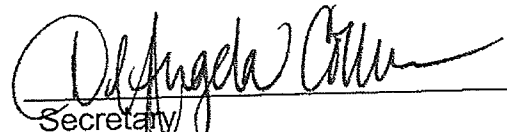
Director's Report – Jena Jones

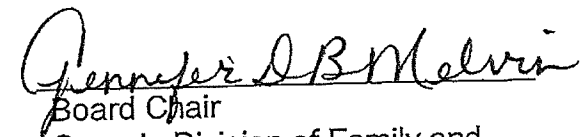
- Month of March is National Social Work month.
- This week was "Social Services Week" at the office.
 - Staff participated in numerous events such as muffin day, smoothie day, and luncheon.
- Clement Arts has started a new portal to assist individuals in need in the community.

- If a family needs any resources such as clothing, furniture or utility assistance please contact Deborah Nolan.
- We also have six churches helping with prom and graduation.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12:47 PM.


Secretary
Georgia Division of Family and
Children Services Muscogee County
Board


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