



Muscogee County Division of Family and Children Services Board Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021

1:15pm

Location: 2100 Comer Avenue, Columbus GA 31904

Call to Order

- The Muscogee County Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Board Meeting was held on January 21, 2021 via online by Microsoft Teams
- Meeting began at 1:15 Pm and was presided over by Chair Board, Jennifer Melvin.

Attendees/participants

- Board members Jennifer Melvin and Charonda Huff participated in the meeting.
- Member Tolua Pailo was not in attendance
- Georgia Division of Family and Children Services staff in attendance was Muscogee County Director Tonika Wadley

Review/Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)

- There were no prior minutes needing approval, so a quorum was not needed.

Old Business

- The December Board report was submitted to Regional Director, Ms. Shannon Fields, and was accepted. The report has been submitted to the State Office.

New Business/Agency Updates

Mrs. Wadley said that after monthly operating expenditures, the only other expense was the holiday luncheon. The monthly report for OFI was emailed to all board members.

- Mrs. Melvin asked if there has been an increase of Food Stamp cases due to the Pandemic.
- Mrs. Wadley replied that the Food Stamp cases have increased due to the Pandemic, especially for children who receive free and reduced lunch. Medicaid numbers had more applications as well, due to the Pandemic.
- Mrs. Wadley said she had received an email that Permanency was found for a sibling group of four.
- Mrs. Wadley stated that Family Preservation has received 6 new cases this month and closed one case last month, which give a total of 107 cases. She said this is not a very large percentage considering the size of our county.
- We are trying to ask relatives where children are being placed to apply to be temporary foster parents while caring for the children so that they can receive funding and benefits for them.
- Investigations are increasing, but from the schools, regarding children not attending virtually or in person. We are working with the Truancy Panel to have monthly meetings to identify children not going to school so that meetings can be scheduled with parents to hold them accountable and to find out why children are not attending school. A lot of the children need supervision to ensure that they are attending school (virtually and in person).

Budget Update

- From our Budget of 41,500.00 we have a balance of 35,805.58, which is after paying for our Employee Holiday Luncheon that was held on Friday, December 11, 2020.

➤ **OFI Totals for December 2020:**

- I. TANF**
 - **267 Active Cases**
 - **72 Applications processed**
 - **\$70,911.00 TANF funds distributed**

- II. FS
 - 20,056 Active Cases
 - 1,420 Applications processed
 - \$8,438,985.00 Food Stamp funds distributed
- III. Medicaid
 - 15,858 Active Cases
 - 1,136 Applications processed
 - Medicaid funds distributed not Available

Personnel Update

- Staffing Numbers:

Program Director

CPS - Vacant

Permanency - 1

Program Administrator (Will be interviewing in January)

CPS - Vacant

Permanency - 1

Supervisors

CPS - 3 (1 vacancy) One new Supervisor will begin January 4, 2021

Permanency - 4 (1 vacancy)

Case Managers

CPS - 17 (2 vacancies) Currently interviewing for 3 case managers

Permanency 13 (4 vacancies) One case manager will start January 2021. Interviewing for another case manager.

Social Services Tech

CPS and Permanency (6)

Case Managers - CPS (14)

Case Managers - Permanency (7 , 1 new hire pending)

Supervisors - CPS (3)

Supervisors - Permanency (4)

Program Administrator - Permanency (1)

Program Director - Permanency (1)

Social Services Monthly Report


Program	Number open @ Beginning of the Month	Number of New Cases Receive	Number of Cases Closed	Number of Cases currently Open
Child Protective Services (CPS)	125	93	72	146
Family Preservation	111	8	5	114

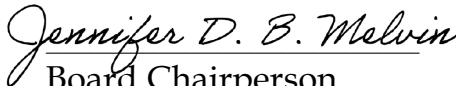
Other Matters

- There were no other matters.
- Mrs. Wadley asked members if they preferred monthly or quarterly meetings and it was stated by Mrs. Melvin and Mrs. Huff to leave it to the direction of Mrs. Wadley. Mrs. Wadley said she will inform members of what her decision is for meeting occurrences. The next Board Meeting is to be determined.
- With no other items to discuss, the meeting was then adjourned.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 1:35 pm.


 Board County Secretary
Tonika Wadley Director
 Muscogee County DFCS


 Board Chairperson
Jennifer Melvin
 Muscogee County DFCS