



Muscogee County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 22, 2026

Location: 2100 Comer Ave., Columbus, GA 31902

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Jennifer Melvin.

Attendees/Participants

Jennifer Melvin, Dr. Chandler Padgett, Darlene Smalls, Tonika Wadley (Muscogee County DFCS Director)

Review/Approval of minutes from last meeting

Notes were emailed to board members (in lieu of a meeting), prior to today's meeting.

Old Business

No old business to discuss

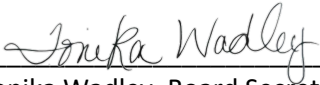
New Business

- Mrs. Wadley discussed allocation of county funds for FY27. Amount granted was \$50,000. A budget proposal will be developed, sent to board for review, and discussed at next meeting.
- County DFCS will host a backpack giveaway for youth in foster care, as well as community children on August 1, 2026, at FAM Closet, 5131 Hamilton Rd. Columbus, GA from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- The agency will resume hiring beginning August 2026. Currently we have three case manager vacancies, one supervisor vacancy, and one program director vacancy.
- Mrs. Wadley reminded members of the required annual board training. An email was sent to all members regarding requirements and login information.
- Mrs. Wadley told the board about a generous donation from a local church. The church will present Christmas toys/gifts to all children in foster care, in the custody of Muscogee County DFCS. Clarks' Christmas is undergoing some changes, more information to come.
- Mrs. Smalls made a suggestion that the agency should do something to recognize dads on Father's Day. Will look into how to make that happen.

- Mrs. Melvin asked about participating in training for foster parents. She would like to resume this task. Mrs. Wadley will have the Caregiver Recruitment Retention Unit administrator to follow up with Mrs. Melvin.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting will be September 16, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the Muscogee County DFCS office.



Tonika Wadley, Board Secretary/Muscogee DFCS Director

Jennifer Melvin, Board Chair