CANDICE L. BROCE



BRIAN P. KEMP

Muscogee County Division of Family and Children Services Board Meeting Minutes Date: April 30, 2025 Location: 2100 Comer Avenue, Columbus GA 31902 Time: 4:30pm

## **Call to Order**

The Muscogee County Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Board Meeting was held on <u>April 30, 2025</u>, at the Muscogee County DFCS office.

## **Attendees/Participants**

Rev. Johnny Flakes, Mrs. Gwendolyn McIntosh, and Dr. Chandler Padget participated in the meeting.

Members - Jennifer Melvin and Darlene Porter were not in attendance.

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services staff in attendance were Muscogee County Director Tonika Wadley and Vashon Scruggs, Administrative Assistant.

**Review/Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)** All details of the January 2025 Board meeting were provided to each Board member via email prior to the meeting.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **New Business**

- Mrs. Wadley stated April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. The agency had an Ice Cream Social Event on Friday, April, 11, 2025 for the Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and OFI staff to bring awareness on the different signs of child abuse. On April 4, 2025, Columbus Police completed a drug training with staff, where they talked about what some drugs looked and how children are effected by parental drug use.
- Mrs. Wadley shared that the Department of Human Services will be onboarding 6 new Child Welfare Services Case Managers for the month of May. Three staff will be in the Child Protective Services unit and three will be in the Foster Care unit.
- Mrs. Wadley informed the board members that June is National Reunification Month, where she would like to primarily focus on the fathers that have been able to reunify with their children from the foster care system. Mrs. Wadley spoke to the board members about how she would like to plan a summer festive barbecue for the National Reunification Month to honor families. More details will be forthcoming.
- Mrs. Wadley stated funds for the Energy Assistance program have been exhausted for the fiscal year. More funds will be allocated next fiscal year. A request for county funds for the next fiscal year has been made.

- Mrs. Wadley informed the board members of the funding needed for staff t-shirts. The amount needed is \$1209.94. The board members that were present, Gwen Mcintosh, Dr. Chandler Padgett, and Rev. Johnny Flakes gave their approval for funding of the staff t-shirts.
- In closing Mrs. Wadley informed the board members that all future Board meetings will be held in person, per the County Commissioner.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Next Board meeting will be July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 at the Muscogee County DFCS office.

Joneka Wadley

Board County Secretary Tonika Wadley Director Muscogee County DFCS

ennifer D. B. Melvin

Board Chairperson Jennifer Melvin Muscogee County DFCS