



## Muscogee County Division of Family and Children Services Board Meeting

Date: September 19, 2024

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 September 19, 2024, via Microsoft Teams.

### **Attendees/Participants**

Board Members in attendance:

Dr. Darlene Small, Pastor Johnny Flakes, Mrs. Gwendolyn McIntosh, and Mrs. Jennifer Melvin.

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services staff in attendance – were Muscogee County Director - Tonika Wadley

### **Review/Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)**

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

The meeting was called to order by chair, Jennifer Melvin. Mrs. Wadley greeted the board members and thanked them for their attendance. She began the meeting preparing for the fall festival on October 31, 2024. Mrs. Wadley shared about the county funds for the new fiscal year. Those funds help with General service assistance. It assists with utility paying the entire bill mostly get elders. They assist until the funds are depleted. The assistance is every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Dr. Small knows someone that can benefit from the utility assistance. This event will take place in the back of the building instead of inside due to it being crowded as long as the weather permits. There was a big turnout. Several businesses have donated to families. Mrs. Wadley isn't using county funds for this event. Funds will come from a different pot. They are also preparing for the Clark Christmas for the kids in Foster Care. Every child that DFCS touches receives something for Christmas. The staff met with law enforcement earlier this week. Law enforcement showed the workers what the drugs look like and what we should look for. Mrs. Wadley mentioned all state employees received a 4% cost of living increase of \$3,000. In June, they had a reunification with the mother. The case manager stuck by her, and she was able to get the child back. We had lunch for the family. Mrs. Wadley want to recognize the fathers also but due to there work schedule they were unable, but they do plan to acknowledge.

Mrs. Wadley shared lately there has been an increase in turnovers. There has also been a lot of cases coming in.

Dr. Small- When the case managers identify the parent with drug abuse?

Mrs. Wadley responded New Horizons help and they also have drug court. Unfortunately, we don't have resources for teens. We also have recovery programs.

Ms. Melvin asked is there still a great need for foster parents? Mrs. Wadley said we need foster parent that's willing to take sibling groups. We have tried to put the children with relatives, but it doesn't work out.

Johnny Flakes said every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday they have House of Hopes that gives out clothes and food to families.

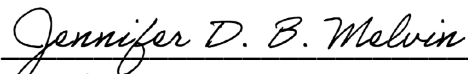
The last item shared by Mrs. Wadley was annual board reports and getting treatment for the youth

Next Board meeting will be November 21st at 1:00 via Microsoft Teams.



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Board County Secretary  
Tonika Wadley Director  
Muscogee County DFCS



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Board Chairperson  
Jennifer Melvin  
Muscogee County DFCS





