

Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County

Board of Directors Meeting

held

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Tia Simon	-	Chairman
Quen Howard	-	Vice Chairman
Charlton Bivins	-	Board Member
Dr. Chantara Carter	-	Board Member

Absent Board Members:

Dr. Barbara Pulliam	-	Board Member
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Staff Members Present:

Dr. Nia Cantey	-	County Director
Deneka Manning	-	County Deputy Director
Ashley Stallings	-	OFI Administrator

A'Kera Clay	-	Recording Secretary
Nancy Ward	-	Program Coordinator

1. Call to order and Invocation

Meeting called to order by Chair Tia Simons at 10:16am. Invocation done by Dr. Carter.

2. Audience Participation

Darlene Johnson resident of Rex Ga, member of Board of Elections, and current CASA volunteer was in attendance. Ms Johnson stated that there will be more visitors from CASA. She stated that she heard some great things about Dr. Nia, so one key initiative for CASA members is to become more active participants at the board meetings in order to learn about the work DFCS does and to provide better services to the families that CASA supports.

Dr. Cantey discussed community service efforts such as the partnership with Tabernacle of International Praise Church (they have a goal to include DFCS in their Back to School Event) and Goshen Valley. Goshen Valley serves the entire state (DFCS) in the area of Independent Living Program (ILP). The county is trying to be more active in the community, which is the focus for the next six months. Taking note of Fulton and Cobb DFCS, which provides dental vans to the community, Dr. Cantey expressed that the county of Clayton wants a dental van. To conclude, Dr. Cantey stated that the partnership goal is neutral that the information obtained from CASA is key to strengthening relationships and services.

Dr. Cantey discussed her 2020 vision to discuss DFCS' roles with external partners and the community. She discussed the partnership and efforts made with the schools since a large volume of calls are received from the schools.

Ms. Darlene and Dr. Cantey had a brief discussion regarding the pros and cons to the Independent Living Program. There were no action items developed from this discussion. Dr. Cantey discussed the upcoming road show and extended an invitation to CASA.

CASA Volunteer left at 10:33.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair approved the minutes at 10:18am.

4. Program Reports

a. Merion Luke – OFI Administrator

Ashley Stallings explained the expedited SOP decline to 86% last month. The unexpedited SOP also declined to 91%. Medicaid was 88%. Pregnant woman Medicaid dropped to 57%. The reason for the decrease in these areas is due to 13 new hires returned from new worker trainings. OFI administrators and supervisors have no control on how the case managers are assigned cases. The case managers received cases that were already over the standard and they had to be distributed for processing.

Vice Chair Bivins asked a question. "Some of the administrative procedures create a false picture in terms of the new hires that you stated received cases. There was an interruption in their abilities to do their jobs?" Ashley agreed and stated that the OFI program relies on the Gateway system, which toggles, and that administration has no control over the assignments.

b. Dr. Nia Cantey – Director

Dr. Cantey discussed the overdue cases in CPS, which the social services report does not capture. As of today, Child Protective Services (CPS) is down to 6 overdues, which are all investigation cases (Case managers have deadlines to investigate, access safety, create services for children and families or deprive children, find permanent homes, and to safely close cases). What makes this highlight worth noting is that the county started out with over 189 overdue cases. The state supported the county with PRNs (who are contracted case managers) and neighboring counties assisted by lending their case managers to support Clayton County's efforts to close cases safely and timely. Clayton County had one of the largest number of overdues in the state. Another key factor in reducing the number of overdues is that currently, the county is fully staffed, which has not happened in a long time.

Family Preservation has 112 ongoing cases. That means that 112 children are still intact with their families. The county is providing the families with additional support and oversight to prevent the children from coming into care. It may also reflect families that also had children who were once in care, but now have returned home due to the county providing them with additional after care support.

In the Adoptions Section on the report, there are 65 children free for adoption, 29 free for adoption without a resource, 11 adoptions finalized for the month (This number has significantly increased. The county has not been doing well in this area, so county leadership and the adoptions team specifically applied more attention and effort to

improve this number). The plan is to average about 2 to 5 finalized adoptions per worker per month.

Resource Development continues to be an area that the county seeks to improve upon, particularly by increasing the number of available foster homes. The goal is to also ensure that the right people are in the right positions. This is the area where continued adjustments are being made.

(Approaching Executive Session at 10:34 a.m.)

5. Other Matters

a. Future Involvements and Projects/Events

GPSHA conference is coming up. The last day to register is the 27th of July. Only 2 people can attend. Ms. Quen Howard wants to attend. Chair Tia Simon stated she may want to attend; however, she will need to make sure. Mr. Bivins stated that he will go. The state pays for two people. If more want to come, it will come out of the county budget. The Board members must call and reserve their hotel rooms. Registration forms will be given to A'Kera Clay. The two are already selected according to Dr. Cantey. Dr. Cantey stated there are two ways to pay: either reimbursement or an advance, but she prefers the advance.

Mr. Bivins requested a calendar of upcoming events.

Ms. Quen Howard asked about the Thanksgiving turkeys for the foster parents. No confirmations as to how many were made.

b. Past Involvements and Projects/Events

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Ms Quen Howard spoke about the October fest/Trunk o Treat event from last year. She stated that she expects more professional & organized participation by DFCS staff.

6. Date of Next Board Meeting

The date of the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:23am.

Respectfully yours,

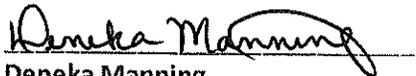

 Tia Simon, Chairman

Clayton County, DFCS Board

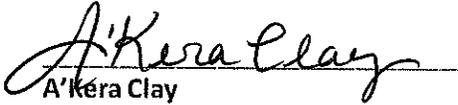


CANTEY

Dr. Nia Cantey
County Director, Clayton County
DHS – DFCS



Deneka Manning
Deputy County Director, Clayton County
DHS – DFCS



A'Kera Clay
Recording Secretary