

Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County

Board of Directors Meeting

held

Wednesday, October 27th, 2021, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:

Charlton Bivins	-	Chair
Mr. Sidney Richardson	-	Vice Chairman (VC)
Quen Howard	-	Board Member
Tia Simon-Wade	-	Board Member
Dr. Barbara Pulliam	-	Board Member

Staff Members Present:

Deneka Manning	-	Social Services (SS) County Director
April Booker	-	Office of Family Independence (OFI) Supervisor/Administrator
A'Kera Clay	-	Recording Secretary
Nancy Ward	-	SS Program Coordinator

1. Call to order and Invocation

Chair Bivins called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. VC Richardson performed the invocation.

2. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Bivins placed a motion on the floor to approve the minutes. VC Richardson moved that the minutes be approved. Dr. Pulliam seconded the motion. Minutes approved at 10:07 AM.

4. Program Reports

a. April Booker – OFI Report

Standard of Promptness (SOP) for each program (SNAP/Food Stamps, Medicaid, TANF):

- The SOP for SNAP was 96% (this included the expedited cases which have a deadline of 7 days and the un-expedited cases which have a deadline of 30 days). The SOP for Medicaid was 85%, which is below the state standard of 96%. Ms. Booker stated that the failure to complete the pregnancy applications within 10 days caused the district to not meet the SOP. For TANF, the district is still at a 99.58% SOP.

Monthly County Active Cases Report for each program:

- For TANF, there was a total of 326 active cases, 637 active clients, 221 applications processed, and a total of \$83,380 monthly TANF benefits issued. For SNAP (Food Stamps), there was a total of 31,952 active cases (27, 331 regular FS cases and 4,621 senior SNAP FS cases), 69,760 active clients, 4,302 applications processed, and a

total of \$15,882,438 monthly FS benefits issued. For Medicaid, there was a total of 42,055 active cases (33,753 family Medicaid cases and 8,302 Aging, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid), 88,112 active clients, and 2,346 applications processed.

State & Federal Program and Services Update (s):

- The Pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (P-SNAP) was approved and is slated to be issued the last week of the month. P-SNAP boosts all recipients to the maximum number of benefits until the program ends. Dr. Pulliam asked for explanation on what the maximum benefit would be. Ms. Booker stated that the maximum is \$204 a month/per person.
- P-EBT plans are being finalized to be distributed. DFCS is working closely with the Department of Education. The goal is to have this completed by the end of 2021. All eligible recipients will receive an EBT card for deposit. There is no action required from the recipient. The benefits would be automatically loaded to the EBT card. The only requirement for the recipient is to activate the EBT card.
- Benefits Interviews continue to be waived, effective September for all renewals and applications that do not fit the expedited category, through November.
 - Medicaid renewals have been extended through the remainder of 2021. All Medicaid cases will remain active until January 2022. After January 2022, all recipients would be required to renew their applications.

Staffing/Hiring Update (s):

The personnel report for OFI was discussed. OFI is continuously recruiting/hiring.

b. Deneka Manning – SS Report

Program Highlight(s):

- The number of children in foster care has decreased to 183 per the September 2021 report. In September 2020, there were 216 children in care. This shows that there are more reunifications, adoptions, or permanency with other families/relatives. There were no adoptions finalized in September 2021, but 2 finalized in September 2020. However, about 5 adoptions finalized are pending and expected to be finalized by November.
- VC asked what Ms. Manning to explain the number of relative care subsidy cases. Ms. Manning stated that those are cases where children are placed with relatives and there is a subsidy that is given to them.
- The number of foster care homes, which decreased. In September 2020, there were 45 homes. In September 2021, there were a total of 37 homes. The goal is to, within 6 months - 1 year, double the number of foster homes, primarily homes that will accept teens and those that may present challenges (high level/behavioral and psychological).
- Currently, there are no children from Clayton County placed with Rainbow House. Rainbow House is still in the process of hiring more staff who are trained to work with children that are “high level”. Chair Bivins asked for more clarity on why there were still no children placed in Rainbow House. Ms. Manning explained that prior to the former director’s departure, there were plans to hire

staff that were trained to deal with children that have higher level of care. The possible logistics of Rainbow House's process was discussed.

(Approaching Executive Session at 10:39 AM)

5. Executive Session

a. Personnel Report

The personnel report was discussed.

- Social Services (SS) is still continuously hiring. VC Bivins asked if there is an end to continuous hiring; if this will continue even as COVID becomes a "new norm". Ms. Manning stated that as of now, there are no end dates yet. State DFCS Director/DHS Commissioner Candice Broce is currently supporting the hiring efforts to properly address the turnover across the state.

b. Budget Clarification

The budget was discussed.

(Executive Session ended at 10:55 AM)

6. Other Matters

a. Past Involvements and Projects/Events

b. Future Involvements and Projects/Events

- a. October 28th Domestic Violence & Breast Cancer Awareness Celebration (in person, with COVID recommendations being followed. Light refreshments being served.)
- b. October 29th Agency Meeting (virtual)
- c. October 29th Community Halloween Boo Drive at Lee Street Park (The Dept of Community Supervision, City of Jonesboro, DFCS, and other government and vendors will be hosting this event).
- d. Men Standing in the Gap Update – VC Bivins stated that it has been canceled due to the COVID concerns.
- e. November 4th Regional Stakeholder's Meeting (virtual. The focus will be centered around Mental Health with youth).
- f. Thanksgiving Request due by November 17th (Board to give gift cards and or turkeys).
- g. Annual Report due December 15th.
- h. December 15th & 16th Staff Winter Festivities (the board to have a special meeting to vote once quotes are provided).
- i. Semi-Annual Newsletter Ideas
- j. Foster Care Parents' Birthday Card (Board project. The number of cards will be provided and the details, so that the board can sign each of them.)

7. Date of Next Board Meeting

The date of the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th, 2021, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting was adjourned at 11: 26 AM.

Respectfully yours,

Charlton Bivins
Charlton Bivins, Chair
Clayton County, DFCS Board

Deneka Manning
Deneka Manning
County Director, Clayton County
DHS – DFCS

not present
Kimberly Scott
Deputy County Director, Clayton County
DHS – DFCS

A'Kera Clay
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Recording Secretary

