

## Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County

### Board of Directors Meeting

held

Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

#### Board Members Present:

Quen Howard - Board Member  
 Charlton Bivins - Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Sidney Richardson - Board Member

#### Absent Board Members:

Tia Simon-Wade - Chair  
 Dr. Barbara Pulliam - Board Member

#### Staff Members Present:

Deneka Manning - County Director  
 April Booker - OFI Supervisor/Admin  
 A’Kera Clay - Recording Secretary  
 Sabrina Watson - Regional Director  
 Nancy Ward - Program Coordinator

#### 1. Call to order and Invocation

The meeting was called to order at 10:09am by VC Bivins. The invocation was performed by Mr. Sidney Richardson.

#### 2. Audience Participation

There is no audience participation.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

VC Bivins placed a motion on the floor to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Richardson. The minutes approved at 10:11am unanimously.

#### 4. Program Reports

##### a. April Booker – OFI Report

Ms. Booker discussed the key highlights of the program. The standard of promptness (SOP) for SNAP was 97.5%. The Medicaid SOP was 98%. The TANF SOP was 99.47%.

Mr. Bivins asked Ms. Booker to elaborate on each terminology (active cases vs clients). During the month of May, there were 309 active TANF cases (households). There were 581 active clients (each person receiving benefits). There were 130 applications processed, totaling \$79,243 of state funding.

During the month of May, there were 29,263 active SNAP cases. There were 72,298 active clients (there were 4,276 active senior SNAP cases, which are older cases and

33,539, which are new cases). There were 2,631 applications processed, totaling \$14,950,317 of state funding.

During the month of May, there were 32,829 active Medicaid cases. There were 7,915 ABD cases. There was a total of 40,744 Medicaid cases. 2010 applications were processed, during the month of May.

Ms. Booker discussed pandemic updates. The P-SNAP program was approved and is slated to be issued the last week of the month. This will boost recipients to the maximum benefit. There is also a new SNAP Cares project. The project is a SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) initiative created to assist Georgia's former foster youth who are not eligible for Independent Living Program (ILP) services. The goal of SNAP Cares is to provide short-term training to SNAP recipients to obtain an industry recognized credential and/or certificate. Obtaining training will not only lessen their reliance on public assistance programs, but also get them on the path to self-sufficiency.

Currently, Goodwill of Middle Georgia & Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) are providing direct training for participants of SNAP Cares. The pilot for this project is in the Macon-Bibb County area and surrounding counties. It is expected for SNAP Cares to grow statewide and to serve Georgians who desperately need these services.

Ms. Booker discussed the OFI personnel report.

#### **b. Deneka Manning – SS Report**

Ms. Manning discussed the key highlights of the program. There were 155 CPS reports assigned in May 2021, compared to the 97 assigned in May 2020. The numbers declined in 2020, due to the pandemic. Ms. Manning stated that her last count of foster care children was 178. The number of adoption finalizations for the month of May was 3.

*(Approaching Executive Session at 10:20 a.m.)*

### **5. Executive Session**

#### **a. Personnel Report**

The SS Personnel Report was discussed. Mr. Richardson asked if there were exit interviews. Ms. Manning stated that she does on a county level. Ms. Watson stated that there is one on the regional level and feedback is sent back to the county. HR also conducts a separate generic exit interview. Mr. Richardson asked whether changes are implemented to decrease the turnover rate. Ms. Manning stated that there are changes made, that are within the county's control. Resignations are not always a negative event; there are individuals who resign due to promotions and other great opportunities within or with other agencies. There were more discussions about the trends. One recent observation was the negative effects of virtual training and teleworking. The region and county have made necessary changes to improve the quality of training and teleworking policies.

Ms. Manning also discussed the doubling of the positions and continuous hiring. For every vacant position, there will be two hires.

## **b. Budget Clarification**

The SS budget was discussed. Mr. Richardson asked whether the PRNs will still be necessary as Clayton continues to hire. Ms. Manning stated that the county DFCS may need an extension of the 90 days because the hired case managers must undergo training prior to handling a caseload. Her request was to extend the PRNs until the end of July and to also have discretion to reallocate funds where necessary. About 3 case managers would have completed their trainings by then. **Mr. Richardson and Mr. Bivins were in support of the reallocation.**

Mr. Bivins asked about the new application for the Block Grant. Ms. Nancy stated that the application was turned in during March, with no rejections.

Mr. Bivins, Mr. Richardson, and Ms. Howard stated that he is in support of different staff development and morale projects (if the events will increase productivity) being funded by the Block Grant, if the funding is within moderation and of good stewardship. Ms. Howard stated that she would prefer Ms. Manning to present a list of staff projects to the board.

*(Executive Session ended at 10:59 a.m.)*

## **6. Other Matters**

### **a. Past Involvements and Projects/Events**

- a. June 11<sup>th</sup> Graduate Celebration (there were 9 graduates). Mr. Bivins and Dr. Pulliam donated funds to the graduates.
- b. June 11<sup>th</sup> Foster Care Appreciation (It Takes a Village recruitment T-Shirts will be mailed to board members)

### **b. Future Involvements and Projects/Events**

- a. Newsletter Release
- b. Back to School Celebration will be on August 19<sup>th</sup> (donations made by the Office of Community Supervision and possibly TOPCI)
- c. Fall Fest in October (if the Sheriff's Office is not hosting Trunk o Treat, Clayton County DFCS will host one)
- d. Winter Fest in December (this will be presented at the next board meeting)

## **7. Date of Next Board Meeting**

The date of the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams. The board requested that the August meeting be in person.

VC Bivins placed a motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Richardson seconded this motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully yours,

Charlton Bivins

**Charlton Bivins, Vice Chair  
Clayton County, DFCS Board**

Deneka Manning

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

Not Present / NA

**Kimberly Scott  
Deputy County Director, Clayton County  
DHS – DFCS**

A’Kera Clay

**A’Kera Clay  
Recording Secretary**