

Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County

Board of Directors Meeting

held

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:

Tia Simon-Wade - Chairman
 Charlton Bivins - Vice Chairman
 Mr. Sidney Richardson - Board Member
 Dr. Barbara Pulliam - Board Member

Board Members Absent

Quen Howard - Board Member

Staff Members Present:

Deneka Manning - SS County Director
 Kimberly Scott - SS Deputy 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 10:10am by Chair Simon-Wade. VC Bivins performed the invocation.

2. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Chair placed the motion to vote on approval of the minutes. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved at 10:13am

4. Program Reports

a. April Booker – OFI Report

Ms. Booker discussed the key highlights for the Office of Family Independence. There was a combined SNAP SOP of 96.49%. There was a combined Medicaid SOP of 96.66%. There was a combined TANF SOP of 99.61%.

Ms. Booker introduced more targeted data for all programs. This data included the number of active cases, clients, applications, and the amount of monthly benefits issued by state funding.

For SNAP, there were 33,944 regular active cases, 4,062 senior active cases, 81,090 active clients, 2,899 applications processed, all totaling a monthly benefit amount of \$14,598,756.

For TANF, there were 344 active cases, 674 active clients, 179 applications processed, all totaling a monthly benefit amount of \$89,088.

For Medicaid, there were 32,316 active family Medicaid cases, 7,679 active Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) cases, 83,081 active clients, and there were 2,017 applications processed.

Ms. Booker then discussed the Quality Assessment (QA) update. The exit report was received by the district leadership. There is a quality improvement team being developed to determine activities and training that can target areas that were not met. The first meeting was last Wednesday.

The temporary 15% increase for SNAP recipients went into place. Clients will receive the 15% SNAP Temporary Allotment increase for January and February based on the scheduled dates. There is a schedule based on the client IDs. See below:

Client IDs	00-19	3/10/2021
Client IDs	20-29	3/12/2021
Client IDs	50-69	3/14/2021
Client IDs	70-99	3/16/2021

After this initial issuance, the 15% SNAP Temporary Allotment increase will be calculated monthly for the previous month.

For example, the 15% for March will be issued in the schedule below in the month of April. These additional benefits will be made based on the below schedule until the program ends.

Client IDs	00-19	1 st
Client IDs	20-49	2 nd
Client IDs	50-69	3 rd
Client IDs	70-99	4 th

Recipients are receiving between \$20-\$30 additional funds a month, at the beginning of the month.

March P-SNAP was approved and is slated to be issued the last week of the month.

Ms. Booker provided an update for Georgia Pathways. There is currently advertisement for 6 positions in Clayton, to work with this program. However, the official approval of the program has not been received (still with legislature).

The program is slated to be implemented July 1, 2021 and the initial waiver will run through September 30, 2025.

Ms. Booker discussed the COVID Medicaid waiver, which has been extended until August 2021.

Effective March 15, 2021, the Federal Poverty Level for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) will be increased based on the 2021 Federal Poverty level guidelines for 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren remains at 160% of the Federal Poverty Level.

VC Bivins asked Ms. Booker to explain the poverty level. Ms. Booker stated this is the income level, which will be increased.

Ms. Booker discussed the OFI Personnel Report.

b. Deneka Manning – SS Report

Ms. Manning discussed the key highlights. Last February, there were 425 CPS reports assigned. This February, there were 139 CPS reports assigned. In February 2020, there were 135 children in foster care. This February, there were 212 children in foster care. There were 2 adoptions finalized for February 2020, and none for February 2021. This is due to the COVID restrictions for the courts.

(Approaching Executive Session at 10:23 a.m.)

5. Executive Session

a. Personnel Report

The SS Personnel Report was discussed. There is an approval to hire for Clayton. There are about 11-12 positions approved to fill. The postings are available on the DHS jobs website for Social Service Specialists. The deputy director, administrative, and several supervisor positions are slated to be approved and filled. There are also two IV-E students who be joining Clayton DFCS. These are students who have agreed to work for DFCS for two years as a condition of their tuition being paid by the state.

b. Budget Clarification

The Budget was discussed.

The Commissioner Block Grant funds from the county have been received. The entire amount was received instead of monthly distribution. The county has the signed articles of agreement as well.

The amount of funds that were used from the fund balance will be replaced. Ms. Manning stated that she asked accounting when those amounts would be reflected in the budget report. However, payments were made for services as a “promise to pay”.

Accounting has requested that Ms. Manning obtain approval from the board for \$1,500.00 to be reimbursed to a foster care parent, who has agreed to adopt two medically fragile children (who have been in care most of their lives). This foster parent had renovations made to their home to better accommodate the children. Accounting stated that approval had to be obtained from the board due to the nature of the request. Renovations are permanent. Per policy, purchases are made on items that can move with foster children. However, the child was a foster care child at the time that the renovations took place. The actual total amount was around \$10,000.00 spent towards renovations.

Dr. Pulliam placed a motion on the floor to approve the amount of \$1,500.00 to be reimbursed to the foster care parent. The board voted unanimously.

(Executive Session ended at 10:41 a.m.)

6. Other Matters

a. Future Involvements and Projects/Events

- I. Agency Meeting April 15th
- II. Employee Appreciation Month celebrated on May 4th & May 6th
- III. June Newsletter

b. Past Involvements and Projects/Events

- I. March National Social Worker’s Month

*Dr. Pulliam asked whether staff are supported by the state and or county, particularly in ways to assist with self-care and increasing morale. Ms. Manning stated that the state provides free Employee Assistance Program (EAP), benefits (Ms. Nancy mentioned the Well-Being Coaches), and the county leadership sends out information about self-care, Zen-time reminders, and encourages planned leave.

*Ms. Sabrina and Ms. Manning mentioned the one-time \$1,000 bonus approved by the governor (March 31st payment); the COVID vaccination being made available to foster care parents and case managers (A1 Plus group).

7. Date of Next Board Meeting

The date of the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Teams.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully yours,

 Tia Simon-Wade
Tia Simon-Wade, Chair
Clayton County, DFCS Board

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

 Kimberly Scott
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Deputy County Director, Clayton County
DHS – DFCS

 A'Kera Clay
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Recording Secretary