



STATE OF GEORGIA
Division of Family and Children Services

Nathan Deal
Governor

Virgina Pryor
Interim Director

Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County
Board of Directors Meeting
held
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Tia Simon - Board Chairman
Quen Howard - Board Member
Dr. Barbara Pulliam - Board Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Nia Cantey - County Director
Merion Luke - OFI Administrator
Tareon Hendley - Administrative Assistant
Patrice Davis - Administrative Assistant

1. Call to order and Invocation

The meeting was called to order by our Chairman at 10:15 a.m. Quen Howard welcomed everyone and did invocation.

2. Audience Participation

No Audience Participation.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for meeting held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 were approved by Quen Howard and seconded by Dr. Barbara Pulliam.

4. Program Report

a. Social Services Report

Dr. Cantey reported on the Board Report. She said that our kids were constantly being monitored. Although our vacancies are still effect, we managed to have reached in the 90s with our Response Time. She continued to elaborate that we did what we say we were going to do. The investigations are up to 45 days; 44 days are overdue. She said we should close out the month with 4 overdue cases.

Dr. Cantey spoke about the trends in the report. She said between December 2017 and January 2018 there was an increase in the number of youths being catered for. She is hoping that number will go down this month. She is also hoping that these children will achieve Permanency, whether by guardianship, living arrangements or adoption.

Dr. Cantey also spoke about the Stakeholder's Meeting DFCS Clayton County had earlier this month (3/14/18). She said Education and psychotropic medication were addressed for the children. She also said she is in the process of having a meeting with Ms. Angela Horrison-Collier, Director of Student Services, from Clayton County Public Schools to speak about our relationship with their children. She said she will have a meeting with them sometime in April and would like it if the Board would be a part of it.

Dr. Cantey spoke about her PIP meeting. She said this meeting highlighted what we were not performing well in. Dr. Pulliam then asked Dr. Cantey if we were doing well? She indicated that we are better than where we were. She said we are not where we want to be, but better than where we were, although short staff. There is still a hiring freeze in effect. She also mentioned that we have hired an Administrator for CPS. She is to start 4/16/18.

Dr. Pulliam asked Dr. Cantey to tell her how we were doing and what is making the difference. Dr. Cantey said it's not just having a new Director, but most of the staff is new. She said Supervisors are holding their team accountable for things they are not doing. She said the aim is to see more improvement and to improve accountability and consistency. Dr. Cantey said RT was in the 70s before she got here. She said we might not have reached 95% (which is the goal), but we have made it to the 90s Response Time. She also said there is only 8 people actively in rotation and the expectation does not change.

OFI – Merion Luke

Ms. Luke reported on OFI. She said the staff have been doing mandatory overtime. She said they do 6 hours overtime per week. At first, she said, it was voluntary, but it has now become mandatory. She said the staff is working on renewals which needs to be on target.

Ms. Luke reported that the State's goal is 92%. They are going at 91% and trying to get there by the end of March. There is another timeframe to be at 96% by June for all programs (Medicaid/Food Stamps/TANF). They are working to get all programs current. Ms. Luke said the District is now at 80.79% for all programs. The timeliness is to be at more than 95%. She said they were 2 months behind and have improved since they are only 1 month behind.

Ms. Luke also reported on the Field Program. She said the error rate as of 10/17 was at 7.30%. She said some of this negative error is caused by our system. She also mentioned that she had 1 resignation in February and another has resigned since this month (March).

Ms. Luke said as a District we are at 91%, at the state level we are at 92% and at the county level we are at 80.79%. Dr. Pulliam asked her who else do we have in the district that are bringing up the numbers; they probably doing better than us. Ms. Luke said Clayton is the biggest region in the District. If we were to look at the numbers, case managers have more cases in Clayton to deal with.

Dr. Pulliam asked Ms. Luke how effective the system is working. Dr. Cantey said OFI has transitioned. There are different sets of people working there now. Also, people were applying for Food stamps/Medicaid online, now they must come in. Dr. Cantey stated that OFI do not report to her, they have a different team that they report to.

Ms. Howard asked Ms. Luke what it will take to get the goal achieved. Ms. Luke said more staff to process the cases. Dr. Pulliam told Ms. Luke that there is a hiring freeze. Ms. Luke said she would like to be at 95% (Food Stamps), 96% (Medicaid). She said 92% is due for March and we are at 80.79%. We only have 3 days left in the month. She said as a State we have met the goal, but as a District we have not. Ms. Luke said this is not unusual, she said we are across the Board and we must try and prevent federal sanction. Dr. Pulliam said expectation is the same regardless. It has to do with the work you have to do.

5. Other Matters

a. Egg Extravaganza

Dr. Pulliam expressed disappointment on behalf of the Board for not being a part of the Extravaganza this year. She asked that a value amount be placed in the budget so that we can be a part of it next year. She said she will reach out to the Sheriff's department again. The Board Chairman said we could ask for contributions from the community as well as business places. Dr. Pulliam said she would request \$2,500. Ms. Hendley said that would not be enough. Ms. Howard then asked if we could get some baskets for the kids for this weekend. Ms. Hendley told Dr. Pulliam that \$10,000 would be it, because you must think about transportation, location, feeding the kids, gifts, you can't depend on the community. Ms. Howard said we could use tangible resources, relationship with other organizations. Dr. Cantey also mentioned our relationship with Gigi house (place for girls), that could be a starting point. She said if we can report what we are doing, donations will come in.

Dr. Pulliam therefore asked to move the \$10,000 in the budget for any cost associated with the Extravaganza and the Turkey giveaway.

Dr. Cantey said the new budget starts in July. All Board Members were in favor of allocating the \$10,000 for Extravaganza and Turkey giveaway.

Dr. Cantey told Board Members that line items were done by the Budget Office.

b. Travel for the Board

Dr. Pulliam spoke about travelling for the Board. She said there is to be a dollar amount in the budget for travel. Ms. Howard suggested \$5,000. Dr. Pulliam seconded. This was so moved to have \$5,000 allocated in the budget for travel for the Board.

c. Compensation for the Twins and DFCS Clayton County Staff

Dr. Cantey spoke about monies for taking care of the Autistic twins and compensation for DFCS Clayton County staff. She is requesting \$20,000 for the twins and \$30,000 for the staff. A total of \$50,000.

Dr. Cantey explained to the Board that those employees who came before 7/1 would get \$400, those after 7/1 would get \$200. She said she would like to do this for the staff annually based on the budget. Dr. Pulliam said the money would either go up or down. Ms. Howard said she does not think it should be automatic for the staff to get it every year. It is to be presented to the board yearly for a decision to be made. She said the language is important. Dr. Pulliam said it's like a policy. Dr. Cantey said she would have it available to the staff as the budget permits.

In regard to the twins, Dr. Cantey said one will be going to South Carolina, but it is not yet finalized. The State would pay for his plane ticket.

The Board approved the payment of the \$50,000 for the twins and the staff as long as the memo is re-done. It is to state the amount of staff that started before/after 7/1, the dollar amount, and the amount of staff for each category. Dr. Cantey reinforce to the Board that the money will not exceed \$30,000. Ms. Howard asked Dr. Cantey what happens if the 75 staff changes. Dr. Cantey said she is doing this by today's date (3/28). Anybody hired after 4/1 would not be cleared.

Dr. Pulliam and the Board Chairman approved the \$50,000 to take care of twins and compensation for staff. Ms. Howard said she will hold her vote until she sees the memo redone.

The Board Chairman said when the memo is done over she will sign off and go with the motion to approve.

Dr. Pulliam then thank everyone for getting the monies in the budget taken care of to help Dr. Cantey take care of our children.

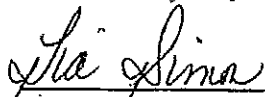
Dr. Cantey spoke about recruitment of more Board members. This is to be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

6. Date of Next Board Meeting


Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully yours,



**Tia Simon, Chairperson
Clayton County, DFCS Board**



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



**Patrice Davis
Administrative Assistant**