



**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**Division of Family and Children Services**

**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Virginia Pryor**  
Director

**Clayton County**

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**held**  
**Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Staff Members Present:**

Dr. Nia Cantey - County Director  
Kimberley Scott - Permanency Administrator  
Ashley Stallings - OFI Administrator  
Patrice Davis - Recording Secretary

**1. Call to order and Invocation**

The meeting was called to order by our Chairman at 10:00 a.m. The Chairman welcomed everyone; Dr. Pulliam did invocation.

**2. Audience Participation**

No Audience Participation.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

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

**a. Process of Recruitment for Board Members**

Two Board Members were introduced at the meeting namely Chantara Carter and Charlton Bivins. The Board members requested to know how they were recruited. Ms. Carter read an introductory email she received appointing her as a Board member replacing Keisha Wright-Hill. Both Board members said they were happy to be here and introduced themselves. Dr. Cantey mentioned that the Board could have up to 7 persons. Dr. Cantey said the recruitment of the Board members came from a conversation with the Commissioner about the supplement to be paid to staff. He wanted to know about the Board members; the recruitment stemmed from that conversation.

## 4. Program Report

### b. Social Services Report

Dr. Cantey reported on the Board report for March and April 2018. She did March 2018 because of the postponement of the Board Meeting in April. Numbers were compared with previous years. She reported on Placement, Adoptions, Resource Development, Child Protective Services, and placement at the Rainbow House.

The new Board Member, Charlton Bivins, asked about the closing out of a case. Dr. Cantey mentioned to him that the aim is to close a case in 45 days. She then spoke about the lifespan of a case and introduced Permanency Administrator, Kim Scott who dealt with Adoption or Guardianship (Placement).

Dr. Cantey reported that CPS cases open for 6 months, if stay in care, they are investigated. Cases opened more than 6 months there is a red flag, the child needs to be put in Placement, Foster care or Permanency.

Dr. Cantey mentioned that there is a pilot project going on now for Region 12 and 13. To be a part of this project, you have to have a MSW (Masters in Social Work). She said it is a multi-disciplinary team combined to make a decision if a child coming in care if removal is the best decision. She said there are over 15,000 kids in care in the State of Georgia. Two persons from Clayton are on that team, herself and Courtney Woullard. She said the Pilot Project is still in the developmental stage. This is mainly for the reduction of children in care, just to see if removal is the best option for the kids. She then mentioned that to work in Fulton and Dekalb you have to have a MSW to become a Supervisor.

Chantara Carter, new Board Member, asked if there is adequate staffing at Clayton. Dr. Cantey explained to her that we are not adequately staff. We are experiencing a soft freeze now until July 1. She said we are short 9 people and have 4 in training. Six (6) people in rotation. Dr. Cantey continued to explain that the volume of calls will reduce when school is out. She reported that the new CPS new administrator just started. Also, new hires (case managers) are in training for 16 weeks. Dr. Cantey also spoke about someone needed with medical knowledge for the Board. She said only County Directors are authorized to sign off on medicals. She needs someone to review medicals for the children. Cobb has someone that comes in twice weekly.

#### **OFI – Ashley Stallings**

Ms. Stallings reported on Food Stamps, TANF and Medicaid. She said they were processing Food Stamps at 96% at the State level and Medicaid was at 92%. She said they increase Medicaid every week, they should be able to get to the State's level of 96%. TANF is at 98% and they are at the State's expectation with that program. Dr. Pulliam asked if she was sure she would make it to 96% on the Medicaid program, Ms. Stallings said yes. She said there is a steady increase every week so they should be able to make the State's level; they are actually where they need to be. One of the Board members asked if they were still working overtime,

Ms. Stallings said this week was the last week for them to be working overtime. She said they will then look at the District level, since it's not just Clayton they service, but the whole district. They had advertised for a County Receptionist which will soon start, but they are still on a hiring freeze for all other positions.

## **5. Other Matters**

### **a. Scoreboard**

Dr. Cantey reported that there were 58 overdues. Our response time is at 78%. She said our goal is 95%. She said response time is that we need to assess safety within the time frame. She said staffing has been a problem. You have to put documentation in so that response time can be recorded. Dr. Cantey then explained how she plans to distribute the overdue cases among staff. She also said the new hires are in training and won't be in office until August 1.

Quen Howard asked if there is anything that could be done to expedite this process. Dr. Cantey said probably to bring in more PRNs. She said we had 3 PRNs, but 1 left, the other one was hired permanently by us and we have another still working here as a PRN. To maintain 1 PRN is \$1,200 a week. We plan to keep her until about June 11.

The Chairman asked to see the budget of what is left. Dr. Cantey said she would send the information to the Board Members. She also mentioned that another worker has resigned, and she has asked her to stay on until July 1 to close out her cases.

Dr. Cantey said she got a soft green light to start interviewing. Just waiting on the approval. She also spoke about the score cards that the staff receive daily. She said she would include those items so that the Board can see what is going on at DFCS Clayton County.

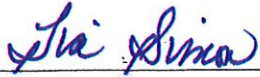
The Chairman welcomed the 2 Board members again and ensured them that they will receive contact information from the other Board members.

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

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully yours,



---

Tia Simon, Chairperson  
Clayton County, DFCS Board



---

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



---

Patrice Davis  
Recording Secretary