

Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County

Board of Directors Meeting

held

Wednesday, August 25th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (Hybrid)

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Tia Simon-Wade - Chair

Staff Members Present:

Deneka Manning - SS County Director
 April Booker - OFI Supervisor/Administrator
 A'Kera Clay - Recording Secretary

1. Call to order and Invocation

The meeting was called to order by VC Charlton Bivins.

2. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

3. Approval of Minutes

VC placed a motion on the floor to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Dr. Pulliam. The minutes were unanimously approved at 10:11 am.

4. Program Reports

a. April Booker – OFI Report

Ms. Booker discussed the standard of promptness (SOP) for Clayton County DFCS. There was an overall SNAP SOP of 96%. There was a SOP of 100% for TANF. For Medicaid, there was a SOP of 93%.

During the month of July, there were 304 active cases, 565 active clients, 175 applications processed, and \$76,695 monthly benefits issued for TANF. For SNAP/Food stamps, there were 31,795 total active cases (27,363 active cases and 4,432 active senior cases), 69,523 active clients, 3,134 applications processed, and \$15,753,792 monthly benefits issued. For Medicaid, there were a total of 41,353 active cases, 86,363 active clients, and 2,270 applications processed.

Ms. Booker then discussed key program updates. The August P-SNAP was approved and is slated to be issued the last week of the month. P-EBT plans are being finalized to be distributed and OFI is working closely with the Department of Education.

Finally, OFI staffing was discussed.

b. Deneka Manning – SS Report

There were 128 CPS reports assigned in July 2020 and 83 assigned in July 2021. Typically, the volume of cases is low when children aren't in school during the summer months, but they were lower both years due to the pandemic. The volume of screened out cases was 108 in July 2020 and 160 in July 2021. CICC is responsible for screening out cases and determining which cases require DFCS intervention. Sometimes, the CICC case manager might refer the reporter to other resources that best fit their needs.

Most of the cases received since the pandemic seem to be more serious cases. There was a decrease in family preservation cases from 120, in July 2020 and 36 in July 2021. Ms. Manning stated that there may be a shift in these numbers due to the implementation of the Family's First Act. Many other providers and community organizations are becoming involved in the act to provide more resources to keep families together. VC Bivins discussed the nature of domestic violence between children as perpetrators against their parents and the negative effects on the family. Ms. Manning stated that the act would assist with addressing these types of situations.

The number of children in care has decreased from 218 to 192. The number of foster care homes was 70 in July 2020 and 51 in July 2021. VC Bivins asked if the department was experiencing recruitment issues. Ms. Manning stated that the number of children that we have in care has decreased, so the number of foster homes will possibly decrease. However, there is a need to always have an ample number of foster homes available to meet the demands. Dr. Pulliam stated that she has observed in some areas, more foster care homes. She inquired whether there was some form of income. Ms. Manning stated that the per diem is not supposed to be used as a form of income. She stated that in Georgia, each county can create their own policies using federal and state guidelines. In Clayton County, each foster care applicant must have a stable source of income.

VC Bivins asked Ms. Manning how many child deaths occur each year, with DFCS involvement. Ms. Manning stated that last year, there were some child deaths. On average, there may be up to 20 a year, which tends to be related to sleep deaths. VC Bivins asked if DFCS reaches out to the families that experience child death. Ms. Manning stated that DFCS tries to reach out to offer counseling to families and or any further support. VC Bivins stated that he would like to create a board project in which the board sends cards to those families and or attends the funerals.

(Approaching Executive Session at 10:49 a.m.)

5. Executive Session

a. Personnel Report

The SS personnel report was discussed.

b. Budget Clarification

The budget was discussed.

The Clayton County foster care fiscal policy updates were discussed.

(Executive Session ended at 11:04 a.m.)

6. Other Matters

a. Past Involvements and Projects/Events

1. Agency Meeting on August 19th
2. Back to School Celebration on August 19th

b. Future Involvements and Projects/Events

1. Agency Meeting on October 29th
2. Breast Cancer & Domestic Violence Balloon Release & Walk on October 29th
 - a. VC Bivins stated that he is a part of Men Standing in the Gap Task Force with Charles Brook. He is about to host a domestic violence rally to reach out to high schools and colleges to bring awareness to the issue "Hands Off". Dr. Beasley is also assisting with the effort. VC Bivins stated that he wants DFCS to be a part of this event.
3. Community Fall Fest on October 29th (Resource Development will have a table)
4. Foster Parent (s) Thanksgiving Request by November 17th (request for gift cards and or food baskets instead of turkeys)
5. Winter Fest on December 15th Parking Lot Pep Rally
6. Winter Fest Curbside Brunch on December 16th
7. The board discussed their training and the timeframe of submission of minutes to the Commissioners.

7. Date of Next Board Meeting

The date of the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will include Rainbow House. The board has decided this meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

VC Bivins placed a motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 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

_____ Not present _____

Kimberly Scott
Deputy County Director, Clayton County
DHS – DFCS

A'Kera Clay _____

A'Kera Clay
Recording Secretary