

Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County

Board of Directors Meeting

held

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:

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

Absent Board Members:

Tia Simon-Wade - Chairwoman
 Mr. Sidney Richardson - Board Member

Staff Members Present:

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

1. Call to order and Invocation

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. VC Bivins performed the invocation.

2. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was placed by VC Bivins to approve the minutes. The minutes were seconded by Dr. Pulliam. Minutes unanimously approved at 10:17 am.

4. Program Reports

a. April Booker – OFI Reports

The total standard of promptness (SOP) for Clayton County’s SNAP expedited and non-expedited processed cases is 97%. The total SOP for Medicaid was 98.4% (this includes Pregnancy, Peach Care, Family Medicaid, and other types). The SOP for TANF was 99.74%.

The 15% increase for SNAP is still effect. The P-SNAP benefits are also still in effect.

Robo Call appointment reminders will go live May 27, 2021 instead of May 20, 2021 (these are calls for new applications and or renewals). The customers will receive a call 30 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment time and an added reminder will inform the customer of the important documents they will need prior to the call from their caseworkers.

The personnel report was discussed. There is ongoing recruitment for OFI positions.

b. Deneka Manning – SS Reports

Ms. Manning discussed significant changes to the CPS reports assigned. In April 2020, there were 252 cases and 86 cases in April 2021. This may be due to the screen outs. CICC screens through the cases called in to ensure that they meet the criteria for DFCS involvement.

There were 227 children in care in April 2020 and 208 children in care during April 2021. The agency is doing well in its progress of adoptions and reunifications. There were 3 adoptions finalized in April 2021, while there were 0 in April 2020.

Rainbow House is on suspension with the state, so there are no children being placed there. Ms. Manning requested assistance from the board to get Rainbow House reopened. This partnership was a huge benefit to the children. Rainbow House was a resource that provided food, laundry care, showers, and supervision for the children who were transitioning placements. The suspension caused some of the children that were there to be displaced to other counties due to a lack of availability of housing resources within the county.

(Approaching Executive Session at 10:26 a.m.)

5. Executive Session

a. Personnel Report

The personnel report was discussed. Vice Chairman Bivins asked about the number of resignations and releases. Per Ms. Manning, there was a significant number of staff throughout the region who were being dismissed during the training. This prompted the region to review the virtual training curriculum. Usually, the training is done in person. The curriculum will be revamped.

b. Budget Clarification

The budget was discussed.

The fund balance remains the same.

Dr. Pulliam asked what the clothing expenditures meant, listed on the budget tracking report. Ms. Nancy explained those expenditures were clothing expenses spent for foster children.

Ms. Manning updated the board on the request for the County Commissioner and office to approve the extension of the Block Grant funds (the funds were not received until March 2021 and per policy, any remaining funds not spent by July would have to be returned (The funds are usually sent in November). The extension was approved to 10/30/2021 due to DFCS receiving the funds late into the fiscal year.

The PRNs were utilized.

(Executive Session ended at 10:35 a.m.)

6. Other Matters

a. Past Involvements and Projects/Events

- a. Employee Appreciation Event on May 6th (National Prayer Day & State Employee Appreciation Week) There was a theme for each day of that week (the state recognized the entire week as Employee Appreciation Week). The 6th was Throw Back Day. Several staff members and guest dressed up in throw-back themed attire.

b. Future Involvements and Projects/Events

- a. Foster Graduate Gifts/Celebration on June 11th (Dr. Pulliam and Mr. Bivins donated)
- b. Foster Parent's Appreciation Curb-Side Event on June 11th
- c. Calendar for board next board meeting
- d. Back to School Celebration TBA
- e. Fall Fest in October
- f. Winter Fest in December

7. Date of Next Board Meeting

The date of the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 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 at meeting
Kimberly Scott
Interim Deputy County Director, Clayton County
DHS – DFCS

A'Kera Clay

A'Kera Clay
Recording Secretary