

## Department of Family and Children Services, Clayton County

### Board of Directors Meeting

held

Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. via TEAMS

#### Board Members Present:

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

#### Absent Board Members:

None.

#### Staff Members Present:

Deneka Manning	-	Social Services (SS) County Director
Kimberly Scott	-	SS Interim County Deputy Director
April Booker	-	Office of Family Independence (OFI) Administrator
A’Kera Clay	-	Recording Secretary
Nancy Ward	-	Program Coordinator
Sabrina Watson	-	SS Regional Director

#### 1. Call to order and Invocation

Chair Wade called the meeting to order at 10:08am. The invocation was performed by Vice Chair Bivins.

#### 2. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Richardson placed a motion on the floor for the board to vote on approval of the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved at 10:10am.

#### 4. Program Reports

##### a. April Booker – OFI Administrator

Ms. Booker discussed the key highlights for each program. Overall, Clayton county had a 97.13% SOP for processed SNAP cases. For Family Medicaid, the overall SOP was 97.62%. For TANF, the SOP was 99.6% for processed cases.

She also updated them on their QA SNAP review. There was a virtual county visit conducted on February 8, 2021. The QA exit was complete on last week. The results will soon be available. Ms. Booker will discuss at the next board meeting.

Georgia is actively working with federal and state partners and vendors to distribute the additional 15% benefit and pandemic electronic benefit transfer (P-EBT) benefits to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) customers. When these benefits are available, they will be retroactive to January.

February Pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (P-SNAP) was approved and is slated to be issued the last week of the month.

Chair Wade asked for explanation about recipients who are not receiving the maximum allotted benefit for SNAP. Ms. Booker stated that if individuals and families are already receiving the maximum benefit, they will not receive any additional funds. This mainly supports the elderly population of clients who are receiving \$16. P-SNAP has been around since the pandemic started.

The Georgia Pathways program is slated to be implemented July 1, 2021 and the initial waiver will run through September 30, 2025. Georgia Pathways will provide Medicaid coverage to individuals ages 19 to 64 who have household incomes up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid coverage, and who meet the program eligibility criteria and requirements. As a condition of eligibility, individuals must be currently engaged in at least 80 hours per month of a qualifying activity or combination of activities.

Chair Wade asked the accessibility for this program. Ms. Booker stated that the eligibility criteria has not been received yet. She stated that recipients would have to in some type of activity to qualify.

An executive order was issued January 28, 2021 that created an emergency Special Enrollment Period (SEP) due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), to allow individuals and families to apply and enroll in coverage they need. The SEP will last from February 15 - May 15, 2021 and is available to consumers in the 36 states using HealthCare.gov platform. This website is for individuals and families whose income does not meet the Medicaid criteria.

The COVID Medicaid waiver is set to run through March 31, 2021. This waiver has allowed Medicaid recipients to receive coverages without completing renewals.

Ms. Booker then discussed the hiring process. Recruitment is continuous.

#### **b. Deneka Manning –SS County Director**

Ms. Manning discussed the key highlights for each program. The CPS reports assigned in January 2020 were 494. In January 2021, there were only 117. The number of children in foster care was 218 in January 2020. This year, there are 197 children in care. There have not been any individuals to complete IMPACT and there were 11 during January 2020.

Vice Chair Bivins asked, with the reduction of cases and assignments, has there been a change in numbers of staff. Ms. Manning stated that it is not the same number of employees. She stated the number of staff has decreased. The case loads are manageable even with the decreased amount of staff. He expressed the thought of professional development if the numbers of cases and staff were the same as January 2020.

*(Approaching Executive Session at 10:29 a.m.)*

## 5. Executive Session

### a. Personnel Report

The SS personnel report was discussed. There has been some hiring based on the budget, on a month-to-month basis, how many staff that were lost in the previous 30 days versus the volume of caseloads.

The turnover has increased throughout the state. This was not anticipated. The flip side is that the state has seen an increase of savings, leading to more approvals to hire. However, the only downfall is that the process from hire to training takes a few months.

### b. Budget Clarification

Ms. Manning asked the board to check the status of the check from the county, as Clayton County DFCS has not received any response. As of now, Regional Accounting is allowing the county to spend based on “promise to pay”, however, there is historical accounts of when accounting has limited payments (this is rare and has only happened when the spending was consistent for months). Ms. Manning explained that this is not being taken out of the fund balance. Mr. Bivins stated that he would reach out.

VC Bivins stated that February and March are very special circumstances. He stated that if the funds have not been received for the Commissioner’s Block Grant and or the state will not cover several expenses, the fund balance should be utilized. There was a unanimous agreement that the fund balance could be utilized, only when necessary.

Per Mr. Sidney’s request, an itemized budget allocation was created. Ms. Manning discussed the proposed budget allocation.

*(Executive Session ended at 10:51 a.m.)*

## 6. Other Matters

### a. Future Involvements and Projects/Events

a. Employee Appreciation Month in May 2021

b. Semi-Annual Newsletter in June 2021

### b. Past Involvements and Projects/Events

a. February Agency Meeting/Black History & Valentine’s Day Celebration recap

## 7. Date of Next Board Meeting

The date of the next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully yours,

*Tia Simon-Wade*    

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

    *Deneka Manning*    

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

    *Kimberly Scott*    

**Kimberly Scott  
SS Interim Deputy County Director, Clayton County  
DHS – DFCS**

    *A'Kera Clay*    

**A'Kera Clay  
Recording Secretary**