

Oconee County Department of Family and Children Services

Board Minutes

September 19, 2019

Board Members Present: Dave Jackson, Chair; Carol Bennett, Rosemarie Newman and Carol Nimmons,

Staff Present: Mary Barrett Yancey, Director; Rhonda Floyd, AA 3

Mr. Jackson called the meeting to order.

The July minutes were reviewed. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Ms. Newman seconded, and the board approved.

FINANCIAL

The Revenue and Expense statement was reviewed reflecting data through August. It was noted that one (1) staff was funded to attend the GPHSA Annual Meeting with Oconee County funds. We were able to utilize state slots to send others.

Staffing conditions were discussed. Ms. Yancey explained to the board that one of Oconee's county funded dover staff resigned on September 18th and one of our Social Services Supervisors has resigned also. There is currently not a hiring freeze; however, there is some controlled hiring. At this point we are still submitting hiring request and filing positions. On a recent conference call with Director Tom Rawlings, he said the 4% budget cuts will not effect hiring at the county level, but he planned to look at eliminating some projects that had been targeted. An example of one project that he mentions was part of the Cold Case Project (stagnant cases of children in care). There is also a transportation service project that may have funding redirected. The line item budget that shows what is being proposed has not been sent out yet, but Ms. Yancey does not feel that front line staff in Oconee should not fill a ripple from the cuts that are being proposed.

Funds Request

- Ms. Yancey requested the board approve county funds to lease a Quench Q7 Countertop for the staff to use. The cost if \$49.00 install fee and \$47.00 per month. The board approved the expenditure.

Office of Family Independence

Staffing Conditions for OFI are improving. Interviews for the TANF SE position (front desk support staff) are scheduled for September 17th. One ESS has been hired and started on September 15th. Both positions will be housed full time in Oconee.

Voluntary Overtime is in place to assist with the push to get overdue cases process. Ms. Yancey is currently working with UGA to see if an internship can be established so we can utilize a student to assist clients with their applications and maybe someone would be interested in training to be a case manager. She hopes this person could help with the incorrect applications that are being turned in which is causing a delay in applications being approved timely. The Food Stamp SOP is 89,32% and the

Family Medicaid SOP is 75.47%. The expectation is 96%. Oconee's active cases are Food Stamps – 504, Medicaid – 851, TANF – 7 and ABD – 337. Ms. Bennett asked what the plan is to move the Standard of Promptness in a positive direction and Ms. Yancey explained that part of the challenge is the way that the work is assigned and redistributed and not all our cases are within our control. The board requested that Debra Maxey-Hunter, OFI Administrator, to attend the next board meeting to discuss plans for the Standard of Promptness.

Social Services

Staffing Conditions for Social Services was discussed noting that the caseload average for Oconee is 20.5 cases per case manager. Ms. Yancey suggested that we use the Dover funding to not bring in another supervisor but possibly a Social Services Tech that could provide a lot of background support to the case managers out in the field. The Techs take a lot of pressure off the case managers just by picking up some of the administrative work. She knows of a local college student who may be interested in doing some part time work.

There is also the full-time county funded Social Services Tech that was vacated at the end of August due to a promotion that can be requested to be filled. It was verified that this is the only county salary currently be funded.

The Performance Reports were reviewed and discussed noting Investigations is starting to trend overall higher than earlier in the year. Ms. Yancey said we have shifted how we triage cases and we can make the decision if they are investigations or family support.

Other Business

The board members discussed ideas to memorialize Ms. Mary Jo Gerlach, long time Oconee County DFCS board member and community leader, who recently passed away. The board would like to name the conference room after her as she was very instrumental in the securing the current DFCS office building. Ms. Yancey agreed to check with the landlord to make sure there are no issues in putting a plaque in her memory in the conference room. Ms. Newman is composing what the plaque should say and Mr. Jackson has volunteered to take care of the cost. The board would like to have a dedication ceremony once the plaque is ready and invite some of the community.

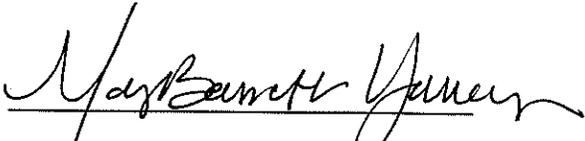
Ms. Yancey shared with the board that she has been in touch with Chris Hempfling with the state legal team regarding their request to ride along with the case managers. He advised that this was not permissible due to the confidentiality and HIPAA laws. She is going to check into the possibility of board members doing some volunteer work in the office.

Ms. Bennet had requested that Voter Registration Integrity in the DFCS offices be added to the agenda. She has attended two (2) meetings where the voter registration process had been discussed and there are approximately 250 voters that are incorrectly registered to vote in Oconee County. There have been discussions that part of the problem is the registration process at the DFCS offices. Ms. Yancey explained the Motor Voter process and that no data is input in the registration system at the DFCS offices. Customers can complete the registration forms and leave them, and they are mailed to the to the Secretary of State's office. She also noted this is a heavily monitored program and guidelines are followed closely with training conducted annually.

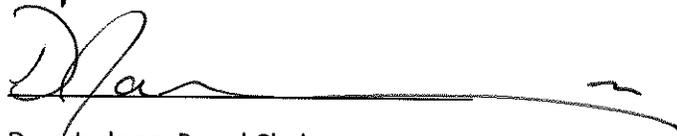
Next Meeting: **Thursday, November 14 @ 3:30 pm**

With no further business, Mr. Jackson adjourned the meeting

Respectfully Submitted



Mary Barrett Yancey, Secretary



Dave Jackson, Board Chair

