



MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Development Services Building, Room 202

* ABSENT FROM MEETING

** ATTENDED MEETING VIRTUALLY

Open Meeting

Laurie Wilson, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Approval of Minutes-

As there was not a quorum at the start of meeting, members circled back at 7:58 PM to review June Minutes. The Minutes of June 18, 2024, were approved with one correction brought forth by Ms. Fauls. Ms. Fauls noted that the presentation by Rachel Taylor was on *Sex Trafficking* not *Human Trafficking*. Minutes approved as amended [HA, CF; unanimous- JM abstained due to absence from June meeting].

Public Comment

None.

Presentation

- Introduction to DSS' Assistant Directors. DSS Acting Deputy Director Holly Handy was present as well. Ms. Handy announced that the Fatherhood Initiative will be hosting a pool party this Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Andrew Leitch Waterpark.

Assistant Director's Presentations included program information, challenges and successes, as well as needs. Present were:

- Lena Purifoy, Assistant Director of Advocacy, Prevention, and Protection Division (Intake, CPS Prevention, APS, Child Advocacy Center, Quality Assurance)
- Meron Gebremedhin, Assistant Director of Public Assistance (Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Refugee Assistance)
- Elizabeth Roe, Assistant Director of Finance and Information Technology
- Van Washington, Assistant Director of Child Protective Services Division (CPS Investigations, CPS On-Going, Kin Care)
- Toyna Golden, Acting Assistant Director of Homeless Services (Coordinated Entry, Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center, Adult Shelter/Bill Mehr Drop-in Center-FE, Supportive shelter, PW Continuum of Care)
- Lucia Dentone, Acting Assistant Director of Customer Support and Services (Child Care, Compliance, Front Desks, SNAP Fraud, VIEW, Energy Assistance)
- Jessica McCauley, Acting Assistant Director of Family Support Services (Foster Care, Permanency/Adoption, Family Partnership Meetings)
- She'la White, Acting Assistant Director of Children's Services Act Division (CSA; IVE)

Floor was opened to questions. The relationship between the different programs was discussed. Assistant Directors were thanked by the Chairman and Board Members.

Action Items

None.

Chairman's Time

- Chair Wilson asked DSS Acting Director Phyllis Jennings-Holt to expand the updated "contact sheet" of Acting Directors and their programs (included in member folders). She stated that more information would assist members in effectively advocating. Suggestions included the following:
 - More information regarding number of employees and numbers served
 - Challenges and Successes
 - Identifying needs
 - If DSSAB makes recommendations to BOCS- what would make biggest impact on their programs?

Chair Wilson would like this information to her by early September.

Chair Wilson will not be present at September meeting. She will be traveling out of country 9/15/24 – end of month.

Director's Time

- Phyllis Jennings-Holt reminded members that the Judges Dinner has been postponed. The board was asked what topic they would like to have covered at September's meeting. Members agreed that they would like both She'la White, Acting Assistant Director of Children's Services Act Division and Jessica McCauley, Acting Assistant Director of Family Support Services to return for a more detailed presentation regarding their work. There was also interest in undocumented clients, and unaccompanied minors and how this impacts DSS. This topic is already scheduled for the November meeting.
- Foster Care audit started in April, and will be completed this month. Feedback from the Audit will be forthcoming.
- No DSSAB meeting in August.

Board Members' Time

Idris O'Connor suggested that members reach out to their appointing BOCS member regarding redistricting, and also announced that the CCOM open house for the community (how to help) will be at Grace Baptist Church on Saturday September 14, 2024 2:30 PM- 4:30 PM.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

MOTION made to adjourn the meeting [JM; CF; unanimous]. Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

APPROVED: Linda Meier approved on 10-15-2024

Clerk to Board