

MINUTES

HART COUNTY BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

The regular monthly meeting of the DFCS Board was held Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the DFCS Board room.

Attending were Shelvy Myers, John Williamson, Earnestine White, Melissa Green and Interim County Director Andrea Cobb

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

The monthly county expenditures report was discussed and approved.

The OFI report was discussed.

The Social Services report was discussed.

Director's report:

- Ms. Cobb has no new information on the budget. This matter was discussed in detail. The issue was brought up regarding the amount of money to Board of Commissioners had allocated to the animal shelter. It was around \$59,000.00, which is more than what has been proposed by Mr. Caime for DFCS. Mr. Caime has recommended DFCS again receive \$34,000.00 All board members agreed this needed to be addressed. It was decided Ms. Cobb would contact Mr. Caime about possibly being put on the agenda for a board meeting. The board members will draft a letter to the Board of Commissioners addressing the issues they see with the budget. Ms. Cobb will send out to the Board members a copy of the budget request she sent to the Board of Commissioners. Board members inquired as to the budget money and how much of it went for foster kids. Ms. Cobb pointed out everything spent except for the cash match position is for the foster kids. A question was posed as to what the money was spent on, Ms. Cobb it is spent on clothing, miscellaneous needs of the children (camps, extra circular activities, yearbooks, etc) things which any normal child would have access to.
- Mr. Williamson ask questions regarding adoption. How long it took a family to adopt a child. Ms. Cobb advised if the family is strictly an adoptive home this could take a while. Most of the adoptions are into homes which are foster/adopt homes. If a child becomes eligible for adoption the agency must allow the foster parents the child is placed with the first option to adopt the child. Mr. Williamson also inquired about open adoption. There was discussion about this with Ms. Green talking about her own experiences.
- Patty Wilhite came in to talk about the BOP process. She explained the issues were surrounding the lack of technology. She helped the board understand the concept of GeorgiaOne. Ms. Wilhite answered questions from the board. She also provided them with a "cheat sheet" when calling the IVR line.
- Ms. Cobb advised SSCM Laura Jordan had resigned effective 8/15/2013. Hopefully we will be able to replace her. Planning on hiring 2 new SSCM this week.
- Mr. Williamson ask who he could contact regarding communication within the state. Ms. Cobb advised she would have to get a name and number for him.
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No further business, meeting adjourned. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28th at 4:00 p.m.

Kearnestine White

Hart County DFCS Board Representative

By [Signature]

Director, Hart County DFCS