

Oconee County Department of Family and Children Services

Board Meeting

July 13, 2017

Members Present: David Jackson, Mary Jo Gerlach and Rosemarie Newman

Staff Present: Dawn Criss, Rhonda Floyd

Ms. Criss called the meeting to order in the absence of Chairman Griffin.

The May Minutes were previously approved by email.

**FINANCIAL**

The County Budget Revenue and Expense report was reviewed. This report reflected all expenses for FY17. The expenditures were at 61.62% of the budget for the fiscal year with a lapse of \$31,724.49. The board discussed possible items that the lapse could be used for in the new fiscal year to include furniture for a possible conference room area (if not funded by the state).

**Funds Request:** Ms. Criss requested county funds for Oconee Staff and Board Members to attend the GPHSA Training Conference to be held August 28-29, 2017 in Savannah. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the county fund two (2) board members and two (2) staff to attend the GPHSA conference. The funding will include registration, lodging and travel expense. Ms. Gerlach seconded the motion with the board approving. It is noted that the registration deadline is August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**PROGRAMS**

**Office of Family Independence**

Gateway was rolled out the week of July 3<sup>rd</sup> with activities for staff each day. So far the response has been positive; however, it is a new computer system so of course there will be glitches and frustrations and since it is new the application processing right now it is slower. Staff is still being sent to training in phases.

All OFI positions are currently filled in Oconee and we have gained another OFI Supervisor (Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid) who will be housed on site.

Oconee has 549 active Food Stamp Cases and 14 active TANF cases. The FS Overall SOP is 92.86% (District wide)

**Social Services**

Performance Indicators were reviewed and trends were discussed noting a large increase in intake from last year. Family Preservation is coming down and Ms. Criss contributes this to more focus on these cases and case managers assigned to the new cases immediately and starting services earlier. The average days a child is in care verses a year ago is slightly higher.

Foster Home recruitment efforts were discussed and Mr. Jackson asked if other counties similar to Oconee were more successful at recruiting foster homes than Oconee and if so is there something we could learn. Ms. Criss said unfortunately so far numbers cannot be directly related to what recruitment efforts actually produce outcomes. Mr. Jackson asked if Chosen for Life Ministries could come and speak about their involvement with our Foster Parents and how they recruit since they have had a great deal of success. He suggest we push the things that are succeeding. Ms. Criss will follow up with this.

Mr. Jackson asked to discuss the budget again and to make sure that with 16 kids in care that all of their needs are being covered and the foster parents know what is available to them for reimbursement, etc. Ms. Criss noted that typically anything that has been requested has been approved unless it sets a precedence that cannot continue to be supported. The board recently increased the spending limits for prom and hair cuts

#### **Other Business**

At the last Regional Director's meeting, Ms. Havick asked for each Director to come up with a Year in Review power point presentation. Ms. Criss shared the power point with the board showing the various activities and accolades involving staff this past year, many of which was directly supported by the Oconee County Board.

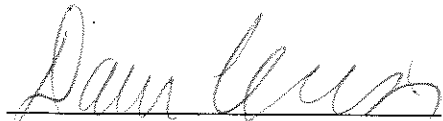
Next Board Meeting – Thursday, September 14, 2017 @ 3:00 pm.

Director's Absence: Ms. Criss will be unavailable July 17<sup>th</sup> – August 17<sup>th</sup>. In her absence the following can be contacted:

- Katherine May – Foster Care Administrator
- Lauren Edenfield – CPS Administrator
- Rhonda Floyd – Operations Coordinator
- Debra Maxey-Hunter – OFI Administrator

With no further business to discuss the board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dawn M. Criss, Secretary



Beverly Griffin, Board Chair