

CC: Tish Rumsey  
Staff ALP

Oconee County Department of Family and Children Services

Board Meeting

January 17, 2019

Board Members Present: Dave Jackson, Chair; Rosemarie Newman and Tish Rumsey

Staff Present: Dawn Criss, Director; Rhonda Floyd, Operations Manager; Katherine May, Foster Care Social Services Administrator and Tonya Pringle, OFI Supervisor

Mr. Jackson called the January meeting to order.

The November 2018 minutes were reviewed. Ms. Rumsey made a motion to accept with no noted changes or corrections. Ms. Newman seconded, and the board approved.

**FINANCIAL**

The County Financial Report with data through December 2018 was reviewed noting we are operating under the 50% target at 40.61%.

Ms. Criss reported that it was not necessary to use any of the prior approved \$1,000 in foster care funds during Christmas as all kids in care were sponsored. We are continuing to use a large amount of funding each month for temporary staff as we continue to bridge the gap until we can get staff hired and in place. Mr. Jackson suggested we keep an eye on the expenses for temporary staff and revisit the subject at the next board meeting as to how we are obligating our money on these positions.

**Funds Request**

- Ms. Criss requested approval to extend the current temporary Social Services Supervisor for an additional 12 weeks (end of April) or up to \$3,600.00. Ms. Rumsey made the motion to accept, Ms. Newman seconded, and the Board approved.

**Programs**

**Office of Family Independence**

Tonya Pringle, OFI Supervisor, is now covering the OFI Staff in Oconee and will be here at least one day per week. She updated the board on the recent OFI audit as well as the status of the Gateway OFI Processing System. Right now, all staff are processing the county work as well as District work. Oconee customers can be assigned to anyone in the State of GA depending on how much work the Oconee Staff have. Gwinnett, which is part of our District, has been approved for 48 new OFI staff. Hopefully once those positions are filled, some of the work will be taken off other staff in the District.

**Social Services**

Katherine May, Foster Care Administrator, reviewed the current performance indicators with the Board. Currently there are 15 kids in care in Oconee County. The numbers are going down due to a large sibling group being reunified, as well as an adoption taking place. Several Oconee kids are placed with relatives and if not placed in Oconee County, they are placed nearby.

There is currently an average of 25 cases per case manager.

**Other Business**

Ms. Rumsey announced she will be moving out of the county and will be resigning from the Board. The March meeting will be her last meeting. Mr. Jackson will follow up with the Commissioner's office regarding her vacancy.

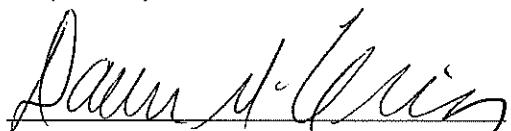
The Board discussed the current partial Federal Government shutdown and the ramifications for our clients and staff. Ms. Criss gave the board the latest update she has received which is the early release of February SNAP benefits in January and supplementing food stamps with food banks. Ms. Pringle reported that as far as OFI, it is business as usual. She reported that clients are very nervous. They are hearing things and contacting the local DFCS office with their concerns, some of which are not accurate. Ms. Newman reported that Oconee Foodbank does not get much assistance from the Northeast GA Food Bank, but Oconee County does have ACTS, Area Churches Together Serving. Mr. Jackson said he wanted the board to be proactive and not reactive if the shutdown continues and would like to have a plan in place. He asked Ms. Criss if she could provide the Board with some sort of outline of an action plan so that we make sure that Oconee Citizens have what they need. If decisions need to be made, we will have the framework in place to act if needed. Ms. Criss will give the board an update every two (2) weeks as she receives information.

Ms. Criss informed the Board of her promotion to Regional Director effective February 1, 2019. She will continue to serve Region 5 and will be housed in the Clarke County DFCS office. She is replacing Mary Havick who is now the North District Director. Ms. Criss will continue to serve as the Interim Clarke and Oconee DFCS Director until her replacement is hired and in place.

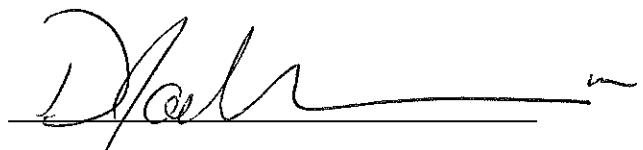
**Next Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 21, 2019 @ 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted:



Dawn M. Criss, Secretary



Dave Jackson, Board Chair