



Commissioner
Jaime Masters

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Family and Protective Services Council Meeting
Friday, November 8, 2019 9:00 am
701 West 51st Street, Austin, Texas 78714
John H. Winters Building, Public Hearing Room

MEETING MINUTES

Council Members Present:

- Bonnie Hellums, Chair
- Dr. Dorothy Calhoun
- Matt Kouri
- Liesa Hackett
- Janice Washington
- Aureka Simpson
- Dr. Connie Almeida

The meeting to order at 9:03 am by Judge Bonnie Hellums, Council Chair. Council members introduced themselves.

Cheryl Gomez, Council Liaison called the roll. Seven members were present, two were absent.

Judge Hellums determined that there was a quorum with seven council members present.

Judge Hellums recognized staff and special guests.

The council accepted the August 8, 2019 meeting minutes.

Judge Hellums reaffirmed the date of the next meeting, February 14, 2020.

Judge Hellums discussed the 2020 council meeting dates, February 14, 2020, May 8, 2020, August 14, 2020, and November 13, 2020.

Dr. Connie Almeida introduced the 2019 Board and Committee Leadership Awards.

Council member Liesa Hackett presented the individual award to Dr. James Repasky from the Gregg county silver star board.

Council member Aureka Simpson presented the full board award to the El Paso Silver Star Board. Silver Star Board Vice President Adriana Pallares accepted the award on behalf of the board.

Judge Hellums appointed each council member to a workgroup. The workgroups are as follows:

Child Protective Services/Child Protective Investigations/Human Trafficking: Connie Almeida, Greg Hamilton and Bonnie Hellums

Adult Protective Services: Dorothy Calhoun, Liesa Hackett and Dee Dee Cantu Arismendez

Prevention and Early Intervention: Aureka Simpson, Matt Kouri, and Janice Washington

Judge Hellums discussed the workgroup structure.

Council members gave brief reports on their agency related activities since the last meeting.

Judge Hellums introduced Chief of Staff, Rand Harris, who provided updates on the lawsuit and the following DFPS programs: Prevention and Early Intervention, the Human Trafficking Division, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and Statewide Intake.

Blanca Denise Lance and Demetrie Mitchell gave a presentation on the Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Division.

Debra Emerson gave a presentation on Child Protective Services' Supervised Independent Living program.

Four stakeholders testified in front of the council during public comment.

Judge Hellums provided closing remarks and thanked the staff and guests.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

CONTACT: Cheryl Gomez, Council Liaison
(512) 438-4932
DFPSCouncil@dfps.state.tx.us