

Minutes of Board Meeting
Teleconference
February 11, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Present via teleconference were Chairman Trummie Patrick, Lynda Coker, Jeff Wigington, David Connell, Todd Cowan, and Virginia Galloway. Also attending the conference call from the State Attorney General's Office was Amy Radley and from the Office of Planning and Budget, Zerlynda Flemming.

Establish Quorum/Call to Order

Chairman Patrick confirmed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Patrick called for a motion regarding the minutes from the January 21, 2015 board meeting. A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented; the motion received a second and was passed with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mikell began by briefing the Board on the CSC's performance. We began 2015 with great statistics. In January we had 278,780 transactions. Our average statewide wait-time for the month was 7 minutes and 21 seconds. We haven't had a wait-time this low since May 2008. Our goal is to serve 95% of our customers within 30 minutes or less and we served 97% within 30 minutes or less. Of the 66 field offices, 60 of them have met the 95% goal. All 66 centers had an average wait-time of less than 30 minutes.

Mike Mitchell, Legislative Liaison, briefed the Board members on the agency legislation for the regular session of the 2015 General Assembly. For 2015, DDS has two departmental bills, House Bill 114 and House Bill 118, both of which are being sponsored by Representative Kevin Tanner. House Bill 114, which has been assigned to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, would enable DDS to transition from using vision screening machines as the primary means of testing a customer's vision to paper eye charts. It would also allow DDS to mail suspension notices via regular mail instead of certified mail; to waive the learner's permit fee for customers who take the non-commercial knowledge test through a public or private high school, or driver training school; allow DDS to issue a limited driving permit to Georgia license holders whose driving privileges have been suspended in another state, and allow limited holders to not only legally drive to and from work using their limited permit, but also legally drive for work-related purposes.

House Bill 118, which has been assigned to the Motor Vehicle Committee, would incorporate into Georgia law new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules and regulations related to the use of wireless telecommunications by commercial drivers and the issuance of commercial learner's permits. Essentially, under the new federal rules and regulations, commercial drivers could only use a

wireless telecommunications device in hands-free mode. In addition, the new federal rules mandate that the term of a commercial learner's permit cannot exceed 180 days, and stipulate that the permit can only be renewed once for an additional 180 days. At the end of the second 180 day term, the permit holder would either have to upgrade to a full CDL or retake the required knowledge and skills tests. The new federal rules also require that the permit holder hold the commercial learner's permit a minimum of 14 days before being allowed to take the skills' test for a full CDL.

Board member David Connell asked a question regarding Senate Bill 6, which concerns limited driver's license being issued to illegal immigrants. Mike Mitchell responded that this bill is on our radar and he is tracking it very closely. Mike Mitchell will keep the Board members updated on SB 6.

Commissioner Mikell gave an update on the budget. We've had our presentation on the FY2015 amended budget, and the FY2016 budget presentation is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Commissioner Mikell gave a brief update on the new facilities. He stated that not much has happened since our last meeting on January 21, 2015.

Lastly, Commissioner Mikell announced the resignation of Bob Griffin, Chief Financial Officer. He will be joining the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and become one of their Deputy Directors. His last day with DDS will be February 28, 2015. Commissioner stated that he will be missed both professionally and personally.

Petition for Board Waiver

Odette Dennis – She is seeking a driver's license. She has a copy of her birth certificate, a divorce decree, a Certificate of Naturalization for her mother and father, a high school diploma, a health care card, a Social Security card, correspondence from Senator Johnny Isakson, a DDS application, a Social Security statement, an I797C, correspondence from the USCIS, and pictures of her mother's naturalization ceremony. Ms. Williams, General Counsel for DDS, stated the department supports the approval of the waiver.

Virginia Galloway motioned to approve the waiver; David Connell seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

New or Old Business

The next Board meeting will be held on March 11, 2015.

Adjournment

There was no further business to discuss; Chairman Patrick called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Virginia Galloway; Jeff Wigington seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Wigington