

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Jennie Kristiansen, Director

Social Services Board
Richard Edwards
Thomas Droke
Valerie Broadway
Emily Lowrance

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Meeting Minutes February 19, 2020

In Attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Emily Lowrance, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; Ben Townsend, Fiscal Manager and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

The board member's reviewed the CCPT Annual Report and the Monthly Data Report Card.

December amended open and closed session meeting minutes and January amended minutes were approved by Tom Droke with a second motion from Valerie Broadway; all in favor.

The board also reviewed the CCDSS 2021 budget draft. There was a motion to approve the draft from Tom Droke with a second motion from Valerie Broadway; all in favor.

Economic Services Updates:

Applications were still being taken for both energy programs, Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) however, there were no funds available in the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Chatham County requested additional funding in a recent survey but have not received confirmation yet. There was \$39,870 remaining in the CIP program.

A group from the Chatham County Leadership Academy is currently working on a project to improve information and coordination of work programs in the county. Donna Gigowski and Jennie Kristiansen are serving as project advisors.

The Division of Child Development and Early Education has advised counties that children can continue to be removed from the waitlist. To date, 33 children have been pulled off the waitlist to receive childcare subsidy. There are 93 children remaining. The longest time someone has been on the list is June 2019.

Family Services Updates:

Child welfare and adult services will be piloting a dictation software service in the upcoming weeks. This pilot is designed to gauge interest and funds will be requested for the upcoming fiscal year if social work staff finds this beneficial.

The first of a series of trauma trainings took place the week of February 3rd at the Ag Center. This training is being provided as a part of the Trauma Informed Communities grant. There are 2-3 other training events planned (no dates yet). Approximately 90 people attended the first training. The community assessment related to trauma informed practice is now closed and results are not yet available.

The Program Evaluation Division (PED) of the General Assembly have been asked to complete an evaluation of the child welfare component of NCFEAST. Representatives from the PED visited Chatham County and stayed for half a day. They talked with social workers and supervisors and also observed users in the system. A report of their work is due by May 1, 2020.

Chatham County has been selected for a cross sector innovation grant for and a program called Equity for Moms and Babies Realized Across Chatham (EMBRACe) which seeks to ensure successful and equitable birth outcomes for women and children in Chatham County. The goal is to improve birth outcomes through examination of data and root causes and conducting listening sessions. An Advisory Council comprised of women will also be developed as a part of the grant. The Health Department is leading the work on the grant in partnership with Chatham Hospital, Piedmont Health, DSS, and the Health Alliance.

General Agency Updates:

The first of several evaluation meetings was held to evaluate replacement software that is currently used at DSS for demographic and caseload data as well as the reception log. The server that the current software is on is at the end of its life and the MIS department has advised departments that a solution should be identified and implemented by the end of the fiscal year.

The board members discussed the current state of recruitment for the vacant board seat.

There was a motion to adjourn from Tom Droke with a second motion from Emily Lowrance; all in favor.

The next meeting will be held March 18th at 3:00pm in the DSS Board Conference Room.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date