

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 January 15, 2020

In Attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Valerie Broadway; Member; Wilder Horner, Social Worker Supervisor and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

Wilder Horner presented on the Agency Christmas Wishes program that occurs in December each year.

Approval of December meeting minutes were tabled for the February meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

The Board review the Monthly Data Report Card. Monthly timeliness for CPS assessments/ investigations was 88% with 42 accepted reports and 5 late initiations. In reviewing data back as far as fiscal year 2015, there was only one other month (October 2018) where there were more than 40 accepted reports. Diligent efforts were made including phone calls and home visits during the day and after hours to meet with the family. One initiation was outside of timeframe by 30 minutes and the DSS social worker and law enforcement officer were coordinating interviews so that the child only needed one interview. Two initiations were outside of time frame due to complications with coordinating face to face contact in hospital/ group care settings. Two other initiations were late due to inaccurate contact information and difficulties in reaching a parent.

Economic Services Updates:

Applications were still being taken for both energy programs, Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Chatham County continues to request reallocation of funding, as available. Currently, there are approximately \$78,000 left in CIP and \$6,000 left in LIEAP funds.

The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) issued a communication the week of January 13th allowing counties to add children to subsidy even if they exceed spending coefficients slightly. Currently, spending is around 95% but children from the priority waitlist are being removed and others as spending allows. To date there are approximately 140 children on the waitlist.

Family Services Updates:

The week of January 13th a regional meeting was held with Harnett and Lee counties to discuss creating a regional early childhood mental health group. Faculty from the Center for Child and Family Health attended the meeting and provided an overview of evidenced bases treatments for children 0-5. During the

next few weeks Jennie and Stephanie Mueller, center director at Daymark in Lee County, will be working on “next steps” and plans for further meetings.

Ms. Kristiansen sent out training information to the board for the first training provided as a part of the Trauma Informed Communities Grant. The agency survey will be open until the end of January. There will be an additional training scheduled for the spring.

General Agency Updates:

- Employee mid-year evaluations were sent to the County Human Resources Office on January 10th.
- A coffee and donut Meet & Greet and New Employee Orientation was held January 7th. This session was extended from a half to a full day orientation to include the Agency Safety Training, Civil Rights Training and a shelter training. To date, all employees have now completed.
- The Agency Staff Meeting was held January 14th. Amy Clement presented information about the county library system. Employees were encouraged to bring their ideas on any unmet needs they may have had that the library could potentially fill.
- A January 28th meeting has been scheduled with the County HR Director to discuss the potential of becoming “substantially equivalent” from the Office of State Personnel. This would provide more local flexibility in the creating of job classifications and job descriptions.
- Chatham County Schools is hosting a Groundwater Event that is being organized by Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity. This event will be on March 3rd for school system, DSS and Health Department employees.
- The Agency Soup & Chili Cook-Off is scheduled for January 29th.

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

There was a motion to adjourn from Valerie Lowrance: all in favor.

Broadway 2/19/2020


The next meeting will be held February 19th at 3:00pm in the DSS Board Conference Room.



Chair

2/19/2020

Date



Secretary

2/19/2020

Date