

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
Carl Thompson, Sr.

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Meeting Minutes June 17, 2020

The June meeting was conducted by GoToMeeting due to COVID-19 social distancing. Members in attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Tom Droke; Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Emily Lowrance, Member; Carl Thompson, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

The May Meeting Minutes were approved as amended with a motion by Tom Droke, a second motion from Valerie Broadway with all in favor.

County offices had received an email from Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County Manager entitled "A Chatham Community Response." The response was to the effects of COVID-19, the killing of George Floyd, Ahmed Aubrey and Breonna Taylor and the racial injustices that remain present in society. There was a motion to endorse the written response from Carl Thompson with a second motion from Tom Droke with all in favor.

The board reviewed the monthly data spreadsheet.

Ms. Kristiansen stated the waiting areas of the agency remain closed to the public and planning continued to reopen gradually to the public, likely starting with appointments, depending on current public health guidance. In response to a concern over reductions in economic program applications, DSS developed a half page informational flyer that was distributed to 1400 people who attended the food distribution event at St. Julia's the week of June 6th. A second flyer was also made about Pandemic-EBT.

For the month of May, applications continued to be slightly lower than average with Medicaid applications being lower than Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). The Division of Health Benefits reported that Medicaid applications across the state had decreased.

DHHS had put in requests to the USDA to extend current waivers in order to more effectively serve recipients. Current waivers were in place through June 30th, with the exception of the ABAWD (Able Bodied Adults without Dependents) waiver. The ABAWD waiver continued until the end of the month following the Governor lifting the Pandemic Executive order.

Previously, the USDA had blanket waivers across all states. Now each state must individually request waiver extensions and each request will be extended a month at a time. This meant that the current waiver requests will be extended through July 31st, if approved. DHHS requested waivers to extend

visitations due to COVID-19. In three other cases, parents/ caregivers were not able to be reached by phone (either no phone or no phone number) and multiple home visits were attempted including weekend attempts but the family could not be reached. In the sixth case, the parent provided the social worker with five different home locations over the course of the weekend and the social worker wasn't able to meet with her until outside of time frame.


Foster parent classes were going well. Since the MAPP class had to be moved to a virtual platform, families were assigned to two rounds. The first round was finishing up with 9 families scheduled to complete (3 families exited during the process). This included two kinship families. The second round will start 7/16/20 and the placement unit was planning a third round as 6 additional families have come forward and are interested in training.

General Announcements:

There is an upcoming training opportunity on 6/29 from 9-1 discussing Historical Trauma and Workforce Wellness/ Secondary Traumatic Stress.

With no further issues to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn from Tom Droke with a second motion from Emily Lowrance with all in favor.

The next meeting will be conducted via GoToMeeting on July 15th at 3:00pm.



Chair

9/15/2020
Date



Secretary

9/23/2020
Date