



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mike Dasher, Chair
Diana Hales, Vice Chair
Jim Crawford
Franklin Gomez Flores
Karen Howard

COUNTY MANAGER: Dan LaMontagne

Chatham County Board of Social Services Meeting Minutes October 21, 2020

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

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

September Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion from Carl Thompson, a second motion from Emily Lowrance; with all in favor.

Review of Monthly Data:

September applications for Medicaid and Food and Nutrition remained around the annual average for FY 19-20. The preliminary childcare spending coefficient for September was 109% with 43 children on the waitlist for subsidy. Child Protective Services reports were up in September with 64 reports received and 32 screened in. CPS timeliness was 85% with 4 that were outside time frame. In all of the reports, one or more of the children were traveling or with relatives at the time of the report. In two of these families, the initiations were completed within 5 hours of the time frame. In another, the children were out of state. In the fourth family, there was a safety concern with completing the initiation with the parent and so all the children, who were staying elsewhere, were seen at the time within the time frame.

Economic Services Updates:

Efforts were being made to encourage remote service in any form- phone, mail, online to minimize the number of people who are driving to the DSS office for services. With the beginning of Phase III, curbside and appointment option were also available. There is a curbside cell phone that clients can call for assistance.

Case workers continued to call Food and Nutrition recipients to enroll them in the Healthy Helping program, a partnership with NC DHHS and Reinvestment Partners to provide \$40 in monthly food benefits for fresh fruits and vegetables and unsalted/no sugar added canned and frozen foods at Food Lion through the end of the year. Over 200 families have been enrolled so far. Enrollment ends 10/31/2020.

USDA extended the Pandemic-EBT waiver through September 2021. Payments were sent out to families whose children are eligible for free and reduced lunch earlier this month. If schools remain closed with virtual learning, then additional payments could be issued.

A review of the Program Improvement Plan for the Work First program was held and all requirements were met and notification was received that the PIP was closed.

On October 19th a panel will be hosted by the county manager's office to review all of the available funding supports for people impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. DSS will be administering \$25,000 in emergency assistance and \$25,000 in mortgage assistance through the end of the calendar year. Central Piedmont Community Action and the Salvation Army also have funding and will be participating in the panel, along with DSS. Information regarding these special funds were also reviewed during the bi-monthly Community Partners (non-profit) call.

DSS is hosting a meeting on 10/28 to share information regarding both the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and the Low Income Energy Program (LIEAP). The purpose will be to share information regarding the program policies and changes for this year due to the pandemic. There will also be time for attendees to provide feedback regarding other outreach opportunities. The meeting will be held virtually.

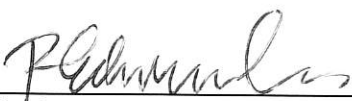
Family Services Updates:

The week of October 12th Chatham County was awarded an \$870,000 grant to implement a Family Treatment Court in Chatham County. This funding also provides for parenting, transportation and other supports for parents when there has been a CPS petition filed.

Calls were coming in from families seeking sponsorship for the upcoming Christmas holidays. Both Christmas programs (for adults and children) will be modified this year to allow for socially distant drop off and pick up for donors and recipients. This will likely mean that the program will operate for more days to accommodate changes.

With no further items to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn from Valerie Broadway, a second motion from Emily Lowrance; with all in favor.

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, November 18th at 3:00pm via GoToMeeting.



Chair

8/24/21
Date



Secretary

3/30/21
Date