

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  
November 18, 2020

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

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

Due to the lack of network access, October meeting minutes were tabled until further notice.

Casey Hilliard and Rossana Roberts from the Chatham County Health Department presented information regarding the EMBRACe grant. A two year grant funded project aimed at achieving equitable birth outcomes in the County. EMBRACe is a product of collaboration between Chatham Hospital, CCPHD, Piedmont Health Services, Chatham County DSS and Chatham Health Alliance.

Ms. Kristiansen updated the board members regarding Thomas Droke's reappointment for a second term. Ms. Kristiansen contacted Paris Penny at Division of Social Services. She was informed that the Social Services commission (that is responsible for appointing Mr. Droke) has cancelled several meetings. Ms. Penny reiterated that if the appointing authority does not make an appointment prior to the term ending, the incumbent board member continues to hold office as a social services board member until a successor is appointment and assumes office.

**Cyber Incident Updates:**

DSS continues to offer all services to the community, however, almost all phone calls were still being taken by cell phone due to the network outage. DSS has some phone access but still no network access or computers. Employees were utilizing laptops provided by NC DHHS. These allow for web access for NCFast. It is anticipated that some computers may be available the week of November 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The monthly data was not available due to the cyber incident.

**Economic Services Updates:**



Curbside assistance was still being provided and there was a new application station installed that is available 24/7 with paper applications for Medicaid, Food and Nutrition, and Energy. Applications for COVID emergency assistance were also being taken. The available rental assistance funds through Central Piedmont Community Action were quickly depleted and DSS was currently taking applications for both mortgage and rental assistance.

Open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act was underway and going well. DSS was receiving electronic applications to process for individuals who may be Medicaid eligible.

**Family Services Updates:**

The network outage was proving to be challenging to navigate for the family services division but, thus far, the temporary arrangements have been sufficient. A formal Adoption Day program will not be held this year due to COVID, however, there will be an adoption signing ceremony taking place on November 23rd.

Despite some setbacks, Christmas Wishes and Dreams (for adults and children) are both running this year. There are 23 groups and 82 individual donors who are sponsoring children. There are still a few sponsors needed for adults.


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

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm via GoToMeeting.

 12-17-2020

Chair

Date

 12/18/2020

Secretary

Date

