

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
Carl Thompson, Sr.

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Meeting Minutes May 19, 2021

The May meeting was conducted by GoToMeeting due to COVID-19. Members in attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Carl Thompson, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; Cim Brailer, Deputy Director; Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant; Hilary Pollan, Guest Presenter and Cecil Wilson, Guest.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

Valerie Broadway motioned to approve the April meeting minutes with a second motion from Thomas Droke; with all in favor.

Hilary Pollan joined the meeting to discuss an Early Childhood Presentation.

Review of Monthly Data

The board reviewed the monthly data report. Childcare subsidy, preliminary spending for April was 105% (March was 100%). Final numbers were not yet available. CPS timeliness had 27 accepted reports for the month of April. Only one case was initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 96%. The social worker had a difficult time locating the family as relatives would not provide contact information. The social worker also visited multiple homes and worked with Law Enforcement to try and find the family. Finally, the father agreed to allow the children to be seen at DSS and then provided the family's home address. This was not within the (immediate) time frame for the initiation.

Economic Services Updates

Open enrollment for Medicaid managed care was extended until Friday May 21st. A press release regarding resources for selecting plans was sent out. As of 5/17/21, 9.91% of beneficiaries in Chatham County and 11.5% of all NC beneficiaries had selected plans. Chatham County DSS issued a press release in late April providing additional information regarding enrollment resources.

Last month, CCDSS implemented a process for referring all potentially eligible families to the Women's Infants and Children program (WIC). In the first week, referrals more than doubled.

Family Services

Cim Brailer and Jennie Kristiansen reviewed a recent child welfare monitoring, called an OSRI (On Site Review Instrument) review. The OSRI is the tool developed by the Children's Bureau to monitor state performance and the federal Child and Family Services Review is based on these

same variables. The OSRI tool includes a series of questions and observations to identify strengths and areas needing improvement around safety, permanency, and well-being. Ms. Kristiansen reviewed the seven outcomes covered in the review. County child welfare cases are randomly selected for review and the data is compiled to measure NC's overall performance. Target compliance with all items is 95% (i.e., 95% of the cases reviewed should have each item rated as a strength).

Elder Abuse Awareness Month will take place in between Mother's Day and Father's Day and DSS had a breakfast and drop in "wear purple" event on Wednesday June 2nd.

Agency Updates

COVID Update: The DSS waiting areas fully reopened on Monday May 3rd. Masks and social distancing were required for entering the waiting area until Monday May 17th. Since the mask mandate from the Governor was lifted, masks are now optional. The volume of in-person visitors has remained low since the reopening.

Agency Events: DSS and the Health Department were partnering to offer race equity virtual trainings through Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity. There were two sessions available in May and one in June. Also, the department is planning an in-person de-escalation training with Michelle Guarino at NC State University. Ms. Guarino has extensive experience in providing education to law enforcement officers and is the Director of Program Development for the NC Gang Investigators Association.

Valerie Broadway was sworn in for a second term ending 06/30/24.

Due to the length of the meeting, information regarding the Director Evaluation and Annual 360 Survey would be sent by email.

The board agreed to resume in person board meetings.

The board discussed applicants for the vacant member seat. There was a motion to approve Cecil Wilson as a fifth member by Thomas Droke with a second motion from Carl Thompson; with all in favor.

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

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, June 16th at 3:00pm in the ground conference room at DSS.



Chair

6/26/21
Date



Secretary

6/16/21
Date