

County of Chatham

CHATHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes July 21, 2021

Members in attendance: Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Cecil Wilson, Member; Cim Brailer, Deputy Director; Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant and Renita Foxx, Guest Presenter.

Tom Droke called the meeting to order.

Cecil Wilson motioned to approve the Open Session June Meeting Minutes with a second motion from Valerie Broadway; with all in favor. Mr. Wilson also motioned to approve the Closed Session June Meeting Minutes with a second motion from Ms. Broadway; with all in favor.

Cim Brailer and Renita Foxx presented information to the board members regarding the new fund granted Family Treatment Court.

Cecil Wilson motioned to approve the FY 20-21 Energy Programs Outreach Plan with a second motion from Valerie Broadway; with all in favor. Mr. Wilson also motioned to approve the Work First Hardship Exemption Committee recommendation guidelines with a second motion from Ms. Broadway; with all in favor.

Review of Monthly Data

The board reviewed the monthly data report. Child Care numbers were not yet available from the state for June. A question was asked regarding "Child Support cases under order" and Ms. Gigowski will follow up with the supervisor to get additional detail. There was also discussion regarding new wards and where referrals were received. Ms. Brailer explained that referrals were received from a variety of places including neighbors, physicians, law enforcement, and other places in the community.

Economic Services Updates

There was a new assistance program that has federal funds available. The program is the Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Final policy and details were not yet available, but it is anticipated that it will be administered similarly to the federal energy assistance programs (i.e., CIP and LIAP).

Medicaid Managed Care went live on July 1st and according to the Division of Health Benefits (DHB) the transition had been going well. There were questions regarding network and transportation and DHB was treating those as "potential member harm" and escalating to ensure that patients received medical care. NC Medicaid identified issues with member identification (ID) cards sent by Carolina Complete

Health (CCH), one of the five prepaid health plans. Member cards were printed incorrectly and affected 185,000 beneficiaries statewide. New cards were to be mailed the week of July 12th to beneficiaries impacted.

There was a change to the childcare subsidy policy that would extend transitional childcare payments from 90 days to 12 months. While this provided more stability for children, it also limited the number of new children who could be added to the program.

The HOPE Program received a large allocation (\$800 million) of funding to provide rental and utility assistance in 88 North Carolina counties, including Chatham. The program was to issue payment within 14 days of application and could pay up to 9 months of rental arrears and up to 3 months of future rental payments. Applicants were required to earn less than or equal to 80% of area median income (based on county of residence), occupy a rental property as their primary residence, be a named party on the lease, and experience difficulty paying rent due to a coronavirus related impact. Applications were available online or over the phone. Contact information for the HOPE Program can be located at www.hope.mc.gov or 1800-9Ask-Hope.

Family Services

The Family Services Division was working on some restructuring as the Division will be hiring two new child welfare supervisors in the upcoming months. The goal of the restructuring was to accommodate workload increases and better support social workers and the division overall.

The Diligent Recruitment and Retention workgroup met in July and was planning for a foster parent survey, kinship family survey, and exit survey for families. The goal of the surveys was to identify what supports are valuable for families and what else the department could provide to better assist families in their care of children.

NC submitted the Medicaid Spending Plan for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 the week of July 16th that included two specific initiatives pertaining to the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). One is funding (\$1 million) to develop and implement an interagency plan to address social isolation and loneliness as well as additional funds to assist Special Assistance-In Home recipients. The plan also includes other priority issues for adult services like challenges with the direct care workforce and support for Home and Community Based Services including expansion of innovations waiver slots and reduction of waitlists for programs.


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



Chair

08 / 19 / 2021

Date



Secretary

8/23/21

Date