

# COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY  
Jennie Kristiansen, Director  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PO Box  
Social Services Board:  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Phone: (919) 542-2759  
Fax: (919) 542-6355  
Valerie Broadway



489

Richard Edwards  
Thomas Droke

Carl Thompson, Sr.

Pastor Cecil Wilson

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

## Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes August 18, 2021

Members in attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Carl Thompson, Member; Cecil Wilson, Member; Jennie Kristiansen Director and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

Carl Thompson motioned to approve the July minutes, with a second motion from Valerie Broadway; with all in favor.

Carl Thompson motioned to approve the Child Waitlist Policy, with a second motion from Valerie Broadway; with all in favor.

### **Review of Monthly Data**

Final childcare spending numbers were not yet available and NC Division of Early Education will not issue spending coefficients until after the first quarter of the fiscal year. Based on internal calculations there was some underspending in childcare subsidy and children were being pulled from the waitlist to be served in the subsidy program. CPS accepted 26 reports for June. Four cases were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 85 %. Two of the reports were initiated within 4 hours of the deadline with one that was a delayed in the report being sent from intake to the assigned social worker. In the fourth case, the social worker had a difficult time meeting with a youth who did not wish to talk to Child Protective Services and was very mobile.

### **Economic Services Updates**

The transition to Medicaid managed care had been going smoothly. Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation proved to be challenging in some counties, and as a result, DHB was initiating daily calls with some health plans to address problems. Medicaid eligibility was to remain in place for individuals throughout the public health emergency period, which was anticipated to last at least until the end of the year.

NC's plan for a new, federal program, Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), was still awaiting approval. There may also be additional assistance available through a potential summer cooling benefit and increases to the amount of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) assistance provided to individuals.

The WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) referral program was going very well. In July, 85% of the 27 referrals were made by the DSS Medicaid program. This was up from 0 referrals in March and 1 referral in April.

**Family Services**

Chatham County was working to gather information regarding the Cardinal Innovations- Vaya Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCO) merger. DSS staff met with Vaya on several occasions to gather information and ask questions.

NC DSS was planning a series of “road shows” beginning in September and October to educate counties about the new child welfare practice model. The purpose of this implementation was to enhance safety and improve consistency of practice across the state. Additional training for supervisors was scheduled to begin in December.

**Agency Updates:** Chatham County returned to a mask mandate for all employees and visitors to county buildings. If visitors refuse to wear a mask, they can be served outside, by phone, or electronically (e.g., EPASS).

Several repairs were underway for the DSS building. Replacement of the two HVAC systems for both buildings and a new pump was installed for the sewer system earlier in the month.

During the July staff meeting there was a presentation by Public Health Department employees on lead and, also, a review of the annual 360 survey results.

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

The next meeting will be held virtually on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via GoToMeeting at 3:00pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

6-9-22  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

6/21/22  
Date