

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Thomas Droke

Carl Thompson, Sr.

Pastor Cecil Wilson

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes October 20, 2021

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

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

Carl Thompson motioned to approve the September minutes, with a second motion from Tom Droke; with all in favor.

Tom Droke motioned to approve the Record Retention and Dispositional Schedule, with a second motion from Carl Thompson; with all in favor.

Review of Monthly Data

CPS accepted 25 reports in September. Seven cases were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 72%. Diligent efforts were made to interview all parents and children within time frames, however, in three of the reports either a child or parent was out of state or out of the country. In two other reports, an exact location to meet with the family could not be obtained. In the seventh report, there was an emergency removal of child in a family who was well known to the assigned social worker. The social worker talked with the parents over the phone because they would not make themselves available for an in-person interview.

Economic Services Updates

Forty children were removed from the waitlist in September with 20 children being enrolled in childcare subsidy fiscal year to date.

The Chatham County DSS Child Support unit was ranked first in the Outstanding Collections for September 2021. The unit collected a large payment of over \$30,000 that went to a custodial parent for payment of arrears owed.

As a part of the transition to Medicaid managed care, the Division of Health Benefits was providing more information about the tailored plan. The tailored plan is a Medicaid Managed Care health plan that will begin providing health services for members on 7/1/2022. There will only be one tailored plan in each

county and so members will not be able to choose plans (but will need to select a primary care provider). The Tailored Plan will provide physical health, pharmacy, care management, mental health, intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and substance use support services. These specialized services are not the same as what the Standard Plans offer and are funded by state or federal funding that is outside of Medicaid (called "state funded services").

Over half (67%) of the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) referrals in Chatham were made by DSS in September. Since starting this referral process in May, 73 people have been referred for the WIC program.

NC DHHS was continuing to work toward extending waivers that would allow for flexibility in administering programs. The Emergency Declaration was extended through January 2022.

Family Services

Chatham County DSS received \$70,000 in CARES Act funding that was distributed to youth in foster care. The funding had to be quickly sent out by September 30th and 20 young adults received funds. Youth ages 18-20 received \$2,500 and youth ages 21-26 received \$5,000.

A separate project involved CARES Act funding. Chatham County DSS will be collaborating with Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Project (Kidscope) to conduct Parent Cafes in Chatham County. The Parent Café model was developed in 2007 by Strengthening Families Illinois (creators of the Strengthening Families evidenced based parent group model for parents of pre-teens and teenagers). The Cafés were designed as a parent-to-parent way to bring the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors to families. Grounded in "Living the Protective Factors" framework, topics covered included self-care, safety and boundaries, parent-child relationships, empowerment, telling your story, and living the protective factors. This 5-part "Family Cafe" series, using the Be Strong Community Cafe model, has proven to have relevance with families served and effectiveness using structured discussions, guided interactions, reflection, and processing. Since there was a lack of group models that focused on babies and toddlers in Orange and Chatham counties, we use our cafés to address the deficit for the parents of the zero through three population.

Children's Services was working with Vaya and Youth Villages to co-locate a clinician to provide behavioral health assessments for children served by child welfare. This clinician will likely be in Chatham County one day and week and will also be a part of case staffing to provide support. It is estimated that this program will be in place in the next few weeks.

Agency Updates

As of October 4th, Chatham County is requiring vaccination for COVID, or, weekly testing for unvaccinated employees. Within the agency 85% of employees are vaccinated with 14 employees submitting to testing weekly. Testing is offered Monday through Friday from 10:00-6:00 at the Old Agriculture Auditorium and is free for employees.

It was anticipated that all visits were complete for the Single County Audit. While there has not been an official exit interview yet, there are no known errors.

The timeline for Chatham County transitioning from Cardinal Innovations to Vaya Health Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) was moved to January 1, 2022.

DSS is partnering with the Public Health Department and Piedmont Health Services to provide services at a new health campus that is proposed for Siler City. It is anticipated that DSS would have employees to take applications for economic services programs. Family visitation space is also being requested. Work is currently being done to design the building.

Interior light replacement is underway in the DSS building. The lighting system is outdated and there has not been adequate lighting in some work areas. The work is being done through a program with Duke Energy. New lighting will be LED.

The Chatham United Way campaign began in October. As of last week, DSS was ranked 11h out county departments.

The DSS Equity workgroup has been meeting since June and agreed upon a vision and long-term outcomes. The vision and outcomes are as follows:

Vision: Chatham County DSS actively works to reduce and eliminate health and economic disparities in Chatham County by establishing equity, inclusion, and diversity as core values of our service delivery and operations

Outcomes:

Chatham County DSS commits to:

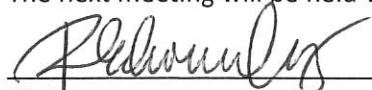
1. Providing services to the Chatham County Community in a way that ensures ease of access, confidentiality, dignity, and respect.
2. Developing purposeful outreach and engagement with clients and partners by creating spaces for community voices and interagency collaboration.
3. Supporting equitable hiring practices, promotions, and employee retention, with a workforce that reflects the community we serve at all tiers of our organization.
4. Fostering a safe and inclusive work environment that values connection, emotional safety, and employee wellbeing.
5. Building and nurturing a culture of learning among DSS employees through meaningful and comprehensive equity and diversity training opportunities.

Next steps for the DSS Equity Workgroup are to finalize prioritization of these outcomes and to develop strategies to meet the outcomes.

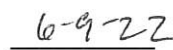
Ms. Kristiansen invited the board members to do a short meet and greet with the employees of DSS at the January Staff Meeting. The board was also invited to attend DSS Board Training, provided by the UNC School of Government, November 16th-17th from 9:30am-12:00pm.

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

The next meeting will be held virtually on November 17, 2021 via GoToMeeting at 3:00pm.



Chair



Date


Secretary

6/21/22
Date