

County of Chatham

CHATHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Jennie Kristiansen, Director

Social Services Board:
Richard Edwards
Thomas Droke

Carl Thompson, Sr.

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes December 15, 2021

Members in attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Cecil Wilson, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; Cim Brailer, Deputy Director; Angie Stalker, Family Services Program Manager; LeAnn McKoy, Planner/Evaluator, and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

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

Review of Monthly Data

Ms. Kristiansen noted that the number of children in foster care was underreported in the last meeting. The corrected number was now reflected in the data report.

CPS timeliness had 26 accepted reports in November. One case was initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 96%. The case was only outside of time frame by an hour and the social worker agreed to meet with the family after the children were home from school.

Economic Services Updates

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) began, and Pittsboro, Siler City, and Chatham County were all participating. Priority groups one and two (i.e., people who are disconnected or in danger of disconnection) were being served. In January the program will open to priority group three which includes anyone who needs assistance in paying a bill that is income eligible. Some water customers were categorically eligible if receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (Work First), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), or if they received Low Income Energy Assistance in fiscal year 2020-2021. The allocation for Chatham County is approximately \$69,000.

Open enrollment for the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace continued going well. Open enrollment will run from November 1 through January 15, 2021.

The childcare subsidy program continued to remove children from the waitlist. Revised allocations were released, and preliminary amounts indicate that Chatham County will receive a larger allocation than originally budgeted (approximately \$89,000 additional). There were about 25 children remaining on the waitlist and their families will all be contacted. There are still childcare programs in Chatham County with available childcare subsidy slots, but this continued to be a problem in other counties.

FNS waivers were approved for the next 90 days. NC DSS is working on a playbook for counties when the waivers end. Seniors may be most impacted since many were only eligible for approximately \$15 a month without the max allotment waiver.

NC DHHS created a new department that will impact some DSS programs in early 2022. The new division will be called the Division of Child and Family Well-Being and will include Food and Nutrition and WIC. Yvonne Copeland was named as Director.

Family Services

NC DSS will be studying the development of a statewide Child Protective Services Hotline (this was included in SB 693) that will include a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee of the General Assembly to address the following:

- Planning and evaluation team that includes representation of at least 3 counties
- Fiscal analysis on creation and implementation
- Quantifying the total up front cost to implement including savings to county and state
- Recommendations for operational needs including staffing
- Evaluation of option for a county to opt out
- Defined measures, goals, and service level agreements to evaluation performance
- Timeline for implementation coordinated with DHHS and local child welfare agencies including the implementation of Intake and Assessment technology as a precondition
- Feasibility for CPS and APS

Gift pickup for Christmas Wishes and Dreams was scheduled for the week of December 13th. Ms. Kristiansen will review final data in the January meeting. At least 370 children were served.

Rena Minor, Adult Services Supervisor, reconvened the Adult Services MDT (Multi-disciplinary Team) to review adult services cases that involve multiple organizations. The meeting was well attended and included representation from Law Enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, Chatham Hospital and the Council on Aging. The team heard a presentation from the Alamance County MDT on their work. Future meetings will be held every other month.

Agency Updates

The DSS Workforce Committee organized a holiday spirit week the week of December 6th that raised over \$300 for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Also, a "Cookies and Cocoa" drop in event was hosted by the management team on December 8th.

The Director and Board members discussed attending the January 25th Staff Meeting to introduce themselves and have a short meet and greet session.

The Equity Committee Workgroup is planning for ways in which to improve community engagement. The DSS Board discussed gaps in community supports and services.

There was a motion to adjourn from the open session and enter a closed session to discuss a personnel issue from Cecil Wilson with a second motion from Valerie Broadway: all in favor.

The next meeting will be held virtually on January 19, 2022 via GoToMeeting at 3:00pm.

Richard Edwards Richard Edwards

Chair

[Signature]
Secretary

01 / 19 / 2022

Date

1/19/22

Date

