

# COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Jennie Kristiansen, Director

Social Services Board:  
Richard Edwards

Carl Thompson, Sr.

Pastor Cecil Wilson

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

## Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes February 16, 2022

Members in attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Cecil Wilson, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; LeAnn McKoy, Evaluator/Planner and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

There was a motion to approve the open and closed session January meeting minutes from Tom Droke with a second motion from Valerie Broadway; with all in favor.

### **Review of Monthly Data:**

There were 30 accepted CPS reports in January. Eleven reports were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 63%. During the month of January, three of the five positions in the investigation and assessment units were vacant for most of the month and a fourth social worker was out for several weeks unexpectedly. Both the supervisor and program manager assisted with initiating cases and the number of reports received was the second highest year to date. This impacted the team's ability to begin initiation efforts immediately, although three of the reports were within a few hours of being timely.

### **Economic Services Updates**

NC DHHS continued to work on plans for the state to transition off some of the waivers that had been available throughout the pandemic. The playbook for counties had not yet been released but should be in the near future.

The Work First Program had an audit. The initial report had not been received but the reviewer indicated in the exit conference that there were no financial overpayment errors.

There were still funds available for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) and an additional \$10,000 in funds were distributed since January with a total of over \$14,000 being spent out of an almost \$69,000 allocation. Referrals from Siler City increased. All three priority groups were able to be served. Priority groups one and two were people who are disconnected or in danger of disconnection. Priority group three included anyone who needed assistance in paying a bill and was income eligible.

Applications for Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and Low-Income Energy Assistance Program were still being taken. The week of February 4<sup>th</sup>, there was less than \$5,000 remaining in Crisis Intervention funds and approximately \$60,000 in Low Income Energy Assistance. Chatham County received an additional \$11,625 in CIP funds with a total allocation of \$146, 622. Additional Pandemic LIEAP funds were received since January making the total received \$203,503.

The childcare subsidy program continued to remove children from the waitlist. During January, 13 families were contacted and three were approved for care. All families whose children were on the waitlist were contacted and the response was positive with more families submitting applications for childcare.

Food and Nutrition Services participants were able make purchases online with eleven grocery stores. The same restrictions apply to online and in store purchases (e.g., non-food items).

**Family Services**

The weekend of January 29, 2022, the NCFAST system was segmented to create a separate child welfare instance of NCFAST. This will allow for further development of the system and greater flexibility for future enhancements, without those enhancements creating problems in a client’s economic benefits case. This will also move the state forward in being able to provide 24/7 access to the system. Currently there are certain hours that are “read only” which is problematic when trying to take CPS reports after hours.

**Agency Updates:**

The budgeting process had begun and budgets are due to the county manager’s office on 2/28. State budget estimates were release to counties February 15<sup>th</sup>, so Ms. Kristiansen and Mr. Townsend, business officer, will be working on recommendations in the next week and can present the proposed budget in the March meeting. Ms. Kristiansen shared anticipated accomplishments for FY 21-22 and some planned initiatives for FY 22-23.

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

6-9-22  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

6/21/22  
Date