

# COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Valerie Broadway



Pastor Cecil Wilson

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 March 16, 2022

Members in attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Carl Thompson, Sr., 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 February meeting minutes from Valerie Broadway with a second motion from Tom Droke; with all in favor.

### **Public Input:**

Natalie Horton, Grandmother; Betty Cherry, Great-Grandmother, Brandy Horton, Aunt, and Brittany Glover, Mother, attended the Public Input session. The family wanted to voice their concerns about the August 4, 2021 removal of four children that were in the custody Natalie Horton. Ms. Horton stated she had obtained documentation to disprove the allegations of neglect while the children were in her care.

Brandy Horton expressed her concerns about the well-being of the children in the current foster home and spoke of how the family unit, as-a-whole, was involved with the day-to-day care of the children due to their multiple health issues.

Ms. Glover conveyed her frustrations with the court system, and stated she and her last court appointed attorney had parted ways, and she was currently awaiting the appointment of a new Public Defendant.

Richard Edward, Board Chair, expressed (on behalf of the members) his appreciation to the family for their public input and assured the family that the board members ultimate goal was to ensure the health and safety of the residents of the community.

Ms. Kristiansen stated to the board members that the case regarding the removal of the children had been under review with the NC Department of Health and Human Services who would investigate and assess the situation.

### **Monthly Data:**

CPS timeliness had 22 accepted reports in February. Six reports were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 73%. Three reports involved out of county requests for assistance due to a family member being outside of Chatham County. One family was never able to be found despite numerous diligent efforts and another report was initiated 30 minutes outside of the time frame. Fortunately,

during the month of February two new social workers in CPS Assessments joined the agency, reducing the vacancies to one.

**FY23 Budget:**

Ben Townsend, Fiscal Officer, joined the meeting to answer any questions the board members may have for proposed FY23 budget. Mr. Townsend explained that most of DSS funding is federally funded. He also clarified several line items regarding revenues and expenditures.

There was a motion to approve the FY23 budget from Valerie Broadway, with a second motion from Tom Droke; with all in favor. With the boards approval the budget will now be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners at the April meeting.

With the meeting running long, Ms. Kristiansen recommended sending the Economic Services, Family Services and Agency updates to the members via email.

There was a motion to move into a closed session to discuss information that is confidential under state law and not considered public record under NC Public Records Law from Tom Droke, with a second motion from Valerie Broadway

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

6-9-22  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

6/21/22  
Date