

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Board:
Valerie Broadway, Chair
Cecil Wilson, Vice Chair
Thomas Droke, Member
Sara Welch, Member
Memory Dossenbach, Member

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes February 15, 2023

Members in attendance: Valerie Broadway, Chair; Cecil Wilson, Vice Chair; Sara Welch, Member; Memory Dossenbach, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; LeAnn McKoy, Evaluator/Planner; Katie Cannizzaro, SW Supervisor and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Valerie Broadway called the meeting to order.

There was a motion to approve the January Meeting Minutes from Sara Welch with a second motion from Memory Dossenbach, with all in favor.

Katie Cannizzaro gave a presentation on the foster care licensing process and supports available to foster families.

Review of Monthly Data:

There were 21 accepted CPS reports in January. Five reports were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 76%. Diligent efforts were made to initiate on time, however, there were difficulties in finding families, obtaining accurate contact information, and coordinating with other counties.

Economic Services Updates:

Since the start of the pandemic, Medicaid beneficiaries have been provided continuous Medicaid coverage. On April 1st, counties will start redeterminations for Medicaid and for people who become ineligible, they will lose benefits starting July 1st, 2023. The Division of Health Benefits (DHB) is offering 4 virtual training options to county as many case workers have not been completing redeterminations. They are also working toward implementation of flexibilities and technology improvements to assist county workloads.

Everything is on schedule for children on NC Healthchoice to transition to Medicaid on April 1st.

There are 50,000 people statewide eligible for the Medicaid Tailored Plans. They have been automatically enrolled and packets should be arriving this week or next. Vaya Health is the tailored plan for Chatham County.

In the Food and Nutrition Services Program, the "maximum allotments" are ending in February. Some recipients have been receiving significantly increased monthly food benefit amounts since 2020. The NC Division of Child and Well-Being has helped with communications, updating information on the website and issuing a press release. Each recipient will also receive a notice in the mail. Locally, information has

been posted information on the county website, waiting areas and interview rooms. FNS caseworkers have added information to their voicemail messages too. An email was also sent to community partners explaining the change. Recruitment for temporary positions is also happening to support the increased workload associated with this change. Counties received some additional FNS revenue earlier this year that was unbudgeted which has allowed for this to happen.

Chatham County received an additional \$44,000 Share the Warmth funds and \$48,000 LIHWAP funding. Funds are still also available in the Low-Income Energy Assistance program. There are still problems with vendors getting paid and amounts applied to accounts. Duke has disconnected two clients and the online pledging system with Dominion is also not working.

Family Services:

The Division of Social Services is revising the Child Protective Services intake tool and have presented the changes to counties. The goal is to improve consistency, accuracy, and ease of use. The tool will be electronic and eliminates the decision tree structure of the old tool. There is a decision guide that is built into the tool with guiding questions.

NCACDSS (NC Association of County Directors of Social Services) developed a statewide survey of children who are without a placement. There currently isn't any data capturing the number of children who are either staying in DSS offices, hotels, emergency rooms, or inpatient hospital beds and ready for discharge. Data for December and January has been collected. Ms. Kristiansen was a part of the workgroup who drafted the survey.

The NC Division of Aging and Adult services is working to create design teams to provide a formalized structure to advise and provide input on statewide work and initiatives. Design teams will be comprised of county departments and other partnering organizations. This will be like the structure already in place for children's programs. There will be three design teams: Consistency of practice/ Continuous Quality Improvement, Community Partner Engagement and Education, and APS Statutory Reform.

NCDHHS has created a new bed registry to decrease wait times for inpatient behavioral health beds across the state. This registry will provide data updated daily to reduce wait times in emergency rooms and provide better access to much needed care.

Agency Updates:

During the agency staff meeting in January, Michael Smith, Veterans Services Officer for Chatham County and Malinda Marsh, presented. The annual Soup or Chili Cookoff was held last week. Employees bring their favorite soup or chili that get voted on by attendees. Nancy Burgess was the winner this year.

There have been several developments related to housing since the last meeting. The Emergency Housing Coordinator has been hired. Paige Felton has been a program manager at Triangle Family Services and has significant housing experience, including working with people who are homeless through street outreach and Rapid Rehousing.

The state budget estimates were released yesterday. Ms. Kristiansen and Mr. Townsend, fiscal officer at DSS, will be preparing recommendations to present to the Board and submit to the manager's office. Budgets are due on February 28th. There will be a budget review with the board members at the March meeting.

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

The next meeting will be held March 15, 2023 in the ground conference room of CCDSS at 3:00.

Valerie Broadway
Chair

03/15/23
Date

[Signature]
Secretary

3/15/23
Date

