

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

489

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 March 15, 2023

Members in attendance: Valerie Broadway, Chair; Thomas Droke, Member; Sara Welch, Member; Memory Dossenbach, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; LeAnn McKoy, Evaluator/Planner; Ben Townsend, Fiscal Officer and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Valerie Broadway called the meeting to order.

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

Ms. Kristiansen requested approval from the DSS Board to purge the Child Support Enforcement Records through the end of State Fiscal Year 2016 pursuant to the current NC DHHS Controller's Office Attachment to Memorandum entitled "NC DHHS Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for Grants." The document was downloaded on 3/15/23 and will be attached to the March Minutes for Board reference. There was a motion to approve the Child Support document purge from Memory Dossenbach with a second motion from Sara Welch, with all in favor.

Ben Townsend and Jennie Kristiansen presented an overview of the FY23-24 DSS budget. There was a motion to approve the budget from Tom Droke with a second motion from Memory Dossenbach, with all in favor.

Review of Monthly Data:

There were 30 CPS accepted reports in February. Four reports were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 87%. There were difficulties in finding families and making arrangements to see them, however, diligent efforts were made to complete all of the parent and child interviews on time.

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

The next meeting will be held April 19, 2023 in the ground conference room of CCDSS at 3:00.


Chair

4/19/23
Date


Secretary

4/19/23
Date

Addendum:

The following updates were sent via email:

Economic Services Updates:

The Division of Health Benefits (DHB) continues to work on preparation for potential Medicaid expansion. There are two provisions included in the Senate Bill that include funding for counties that take effect in October and a provision that will allow for NC to be a Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). DHB has recommended that funds be made available to counties prior to October to allow for adequate time to prepare. Participation in the FFM will reduce the number of applications that counties must process and also absorbs the liability of cases processed by the federal government. If an eligibility determination is made by the FFM then the federal government is responsible for any eligibility errors and paybacks. It is anticipated that there are 600,000 people eligible for expansion and about 350,000 of those are already in the program (many are in the Medicaid family planning program). Once NC's plan is approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the budget is passed, then the 350,000 individuals already in the system can be more easily transitioned into the expansion population. There are approximately 250,000 additional individuals that are not in the Medicaid program, eligible and likely to apply and of those approximately 50-75,000 would come through the FFM.

The implementation of Medicaid Tailored Plans has been delayed again until October 1st.

In the Food and Nutrition Services Program, the "maximum allotments" are ending this month.

Chatham County received approximately \$6,000 additional Crisis Intervention Program funds as a part of a statewide reallocation process.

Family Services Updates:

The Governor released a report and announced a plan to invest \$1 billion in mental health and substance use services using the \$1.8 billion incentive funds provided to NC as the result of Medicaid expansion. The report can be found [here](#). This report identifies solution in three major areas and specifically mentions the underfunding of child welfare with NC being the lowest in per child funding for county administered states. It also highlights that NC ranks last in the country for access to mental health care for children.

As mentioned last month, NACDSS (NC Association of County Directors of Social Services) developed a statewide survey of children who are without a placement. This has transitioned from a monthly survey to a weekly survey that captures the number of children staying in DSS offices or hotels and the assigned Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (Vaya in Chatham County) responsible for their behavioral healthcare. There are four weeks of data available which indicated 22 (week one), 24 (week two), 12 (week three), and 30 (week four) children staying in office/hotels. Chatham County DSS has not had any children during the surveying period.

Counties will be receiving an additional allocation of Adult Protective Essential Services Funds. The next funding allocation is \$528,699 statewide and will cover January 2023 through June 2023. Additional funds will also be available in the future with an anticipated \$1 million for State Fiscal Year 2023-2024. These funds can be used to serve any individual receiving protective services for adults. Chatham County received \$2500 in the first allocation.

Agency Updates:

Paige Felton started as the Emergency Housing Coordinator at DSS and has been working with community partners to learn more about community needs and supports. The Street Outreach

Coordinator, Sharon Hartwell, has also been hired through Triangle J Council of Governments and should start directly working in the community next week. Chatham County DSS also was selected to work with an intern through the Lead for NC program at the UNC School of Government. This intern will start during the summer and will assist with several housing projects including developing a landlord engagement program.

Jennie Kristiansen and Paige Felton will be presenting information regarding the DSS Emergency Housing/Homelessness Prevention Program at the April meeting.

