

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Jennie Kristiansen, Director

Social Services Board:
Valerie Broadway, Chair
Cecil Wilson, Vice Chair
Thomas Droke, Member

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes August 17, 2022

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

Cecil Wilson called the meeting to order.

Review of Monthly Data:

CPS had 29 accepted reports in July. One report was initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 97%. The only report outside of time frame was a case transferred to Chatham from another county and was initiated from the sending county outside of time frame (prior to transfer).

Economic Services Updates:

There are changes taking place in how counties were receiving funding for their Medicaid programs at DSS that will likely result in revenue for Chatham County. There are a series of trainings to make sure that the fiscal staff know how to report with the changes. All job descriptions will need to include specific language around work in NCFAS (the state eligibility system). Chatham County is working to prepare. The changes will take effect in September.

Open enrollment started for the Medicaid Tailored Plan. The plan integrates health and behavioral health care and is for beneficiaries who have significant behavioral health needs, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and Traumatic Brain Injuries. Open enrollment is scheduled 8/15/22-10/14/22 with the plan to launch on 12/1/22.

The Department was five months through the 10-month Recipient Eligibility Determination Audit (REDA). There were no eligibility errors resulting in county paybacks, however, there were eligibility errors resulting in improper denials of Medicaid services and some internal control errors (not resulting in improper eligibility determinations). The Medicaid leadership team was evaluating options for addressing these errors, including expanded checklists.

Family Services:

Child welfare is scheduled to have an annual program monitoring at the end of August, beginning of September. The new Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) is included in this monitoring. This would be the first time that this program has been monitored by NC DSS.

Agency Updates:

The Department has been involved in a health equity grant, EMBRACE, for several years. The week of August 15th there was a meeting of the Steering Committee to get an update about the Maternity Care Center at Chatham Hospital. The staffing shortages have impacted their hours, resulting in some weekend closures. The Hospital team is working to overcome these shortages and hope that the MCC can remain operational.

Five employees attended the Social Services Institute (SSI) in Hickory August 3rd-5th. This was the first institute since 2019 and was hosted by the NC Association of Directors of Social Services. The SSI is an opportunity to attend workshops on all DSS Programs and obtain program updates from NC DHHS.

An upcoming orientation is scheduled on August 30th. There are approximately 10 new employees who have joined since the last orientation in February.

Chatham County is in the process of implementing a county wide Flexible Work Arrangement Policy. Not all positions will be eligible to participate, however, key tenets of this policy are as follows:

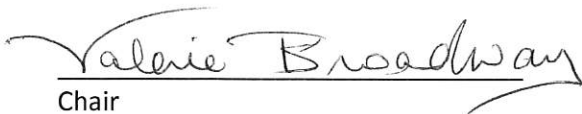
- Departmental operations and service delivery are improved or maintained.
- Staff availability to internal and external customers is improved or maintained.
- Employee productivity is improved or maintained.
- Position and operating costs are neutral (i.e., no additional positions, overtime or compensatory time needed due to a FWA).
- Other County departments, services, or staff are not negatively impacted.
- Recruitment and retention of qualified, productive, and engaged staff is enhanced.

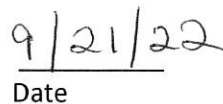
DSS Board Member Recruitment Update:

The selection of the DSS Board member appointed by the Board of Commissioners will be on their 8/24 agenda. The DSS Board has recommended Sara Welch for this seat. The selection of the DSS Board member appointed by the NC Social Services Commission will be on their 9/15 agenda. The DSS Board has recommended Memory Dossenbach for this seat.

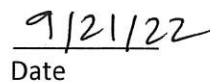
With no further items to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn from Cecil Wilson.

The next meeting will be held on September 21st at 3:00pm in the DSS Ground Conference Room.


Chair


Date


Secretary


Date