

# 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  
Sara Welch, Member  
Memory Dossenbach, Member

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

## Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes September 21, 2022

Members in attendance: Valerie Broadway, Chair, Cecil Wilson, Vice Chair; Thomas Droke, Member; 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.

Brittany Glover attended the Public Input session.

Sara Welch and Memory Dossenbach were sworn in as Board Members.

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

There were 22 CPS reports accepted in August. Two reports were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 91%. One report was late because the social worker was accommodating the family's work schedule and met with them in the evening. The other report was late because the family could not be located, and the report was initially made to another county. Diligent efforts were made.

### **Economic Services Updates**

The Division of Health Benefits (DHB) was taking steps to improve technology as the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) was taking place as the possibility of Medicaid expansion remains. Many of those who remained eligible for Medicaid due to the PHE were at risk of losing benefits because they were over the income limits would now likely be eligible under Medicaid expansion. DHB was considering options to minimize the churn rate in considering this population for expanded Medicaid in an effort to avoid a redetermination process that would require that each beneficiary be considered individually (and could be automated).

The Division of Health Benefits (DHB) was also planning on sending messages to beneficiaries about the importance of checking mail for notices and updating mailing addresses to ensure that they receive the correct information as program changes are implemented with the ending of the PHE. If someone is determined to be ineligible for Medicaid, their information would automatically be sent to health plans, so that they can either assist with reapplying or connect the person to Affordable Care Act Plans (which most Medicaid Prepaid Health Plans also offer).

Children that were eligible for NC Healthchoice (or CHIP, Children's Health Insurance Program) will be transitioning to the Medicaid program. This will simplify eligibility determinations and provide better health insurance coverage for these children. Approximately 50,000 children will be impacted statewide. The merger is tentatively planned for March or April 2023.

The rollout of "no touch" redeterminations for Medicaid continued. This would be accomplished by using information from state data systems and automation of notices sent to beneficiaries. It is anticipated that this would reduce worker caseload by 30% with a goal to have every county using this new option by January 2023.

In planning for potential Medicaid expansion, DHB is planning for automation of eligibility reviews for people who are already receiving Family Planning (a category of Medicaid coverage limited only to family planning care) so that they can be moved onto the Medicaid program with a low burden on county case workers. This will be several hundred thousand people statewide. DHB is also proposing that NC be a FFM (Federally Facilitated Marketplace) determination state so if an individual applies for Affordable Care Act coverage, they will automatically be considered for Medicaid. Many of these changes will require federal approvals, however, provide options for improving access to the Medicaid program.

The Medicaid Tailored Plans launch on December 1, 2022 with approximately 50,000 people statewide being eligible. There are six tailored plans operated by each of the Local Management Entities/ Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO's). Information has been mailed out and beneficiaries are selecting Primary Care Providers. Open enrollment ends October 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Family Services:**

September is Child Welfare Workforce Appreciation month and the children's services supervisors planned a week of activities for staff. Activities included a popcorn bar, nacho bar, donuts and coffee, and pizza. There were also educational activities to attend including workshops on the local parenting program, WIC, and drug screen interpretation.

The Adult Services In-Home Aide Program will be recertified in October. This process takes place every three years and involves file reviews to determine accuracy of eligibility and program requirements (e.g., completing assessments thoroughly and on time).

#### **Agency Updates:**

The management team participated in a workshop on the Languages of Appreciation at Work. Ms. Kristiansen prepared the workshop which is based on a book by Paul White and Gary Chapman. The primary message is that understanding the differences in how employees like to be appreciated can lead to better performance and employee retention.

October 13th was "Wake up with WIC." The WIC team at Piedmont Health came to DSS and provided breakfast and informational sessions on the WIC program. This was to kick off additional data collection for the WIC program. Employees were being asked to (temporarily) tally the reasons that someone declines to be referred for the WIC program. The data will be used to better tailor the program to meet the needs of mothers and families with young children.

The Board of Commissioners approved the allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that included some additional funds for housing assistance and the creation of a housing department within DSS. There are not a lot of details available yet, however, the department is examining existing structure and the administration of the emergency assistance funds to determine if any adjustments could be made to improve effectiveness.

**Kinship Care Program Presentation:**

Katie Cannizzaro shared her presentation from the statewide child welfare meeting. Ms. Cannizzaro has been leading work at CCDSS for improving rates of training and licensure for kinship families. Kinship families provide care for children experiencing foster care and have a prior relationship (do not have to be a family member) with the child.

**Revised Childcare Waitlist Policy:**

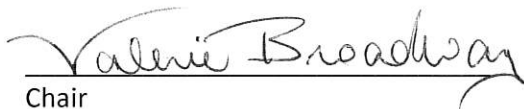
NC Division of Child Development and Early Education requested that changes be made to the prior version of the waitlist policy. Children who identified as homeless will be served in the same way that children who have special needs were served. There will be a special indication on the waitlist and if special needs funds are being underspent than children who have special needs and/or are homeless will be served without being placed on the subsidy waitlist. There was a motion to approve the revised Policy from Cecil Wilson, with a second motion from Tom Droke, with all in favor.

There was a motion to approve the July Meeting Minutes from Cecil Wilson, with a second motion from Tom Droke, with all in favor.

There was a motion to approve the August Meeting Minutes from Tom Droke, with a second motion from Cecil Wilson, with all in favor.

There was a motion to adjourn from the open session and enter 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 Sara Welch, with all in favor.

The next meeting will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm in the ground conference room of CCDSS.

  
Chair

10/19/22  
Date

  
Secretary

10/19/22  
Date

