

# 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

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

## Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes October 19, 2022

Members in attendance: Valerie Broadway, Chair; Thomas Droke, Member; Sara Welch, Member; Memory Dossenbach, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; LeAnn McKoy, Evaluator/Planner; Jody Kotoris, Child Support Supervisor and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Valerie Broadway called the meeting to order.

There was a motion to approve the September Meeting Minutes from Sara Welch with a second motion from Tom Droke, with all in favor.

There was a motion to approve the September Closed Session Meeting Minutes from Tom Droke with a second motion from Memory Dossenbach, with all in favor.

Jody Kotoris presented an overview of Child Support Services.

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

There were 21 accepted CPS reports in September. Four reports were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 81%. Three reports involved coordination with other counties or states and the fourth involved a family who has avoided the DSS social worker and may require a petition for obstruction.

### **Economic Services Updates:**

Cost of Living Adjustment, or COLA, increases took effect October 1<sup>st</sup>. The adjustments were based on increases in the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers. It is a monthly measure of average prices paid for a market basket of goods and services (also based on spending patterns). The new COLA is a percent increase in consumer price increase based on the average of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the current year and the last year that there was a COLA. For the Food and Nutrition program the maximum allotment (with no income) went from \$250 to \$281 for a one-person household and \$835 to \$939 for a four-person household.

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provided over \$17 million in assistance in NC and was slated to end on 9/30/23. Locally, 222 households (this number could represent duplicated households because it is not one time assistance) served with \$81,401 in assistance provided.

Planning for the rollout of "no touch" redeterminations for Medicaid continued. The implementation date for Chatham County was not yet known but the goal was that all counties to be using this feature

by January 2023. Pilot counties were reporting 10% of their cases were being processed with the straight through processing technology and the Division of Health Benefits (DHB) would like this number to be 50%. Another improvement for Medicaid beneficiaries was a voice signature option. Chatham County does not have the technology to implement this currently and is working with the phone vendor. This means that the county will not "go live" with this feature in October as planned but will be added to a later group. In October, there will be 57 counties using voice signatures.

The Medicaid Tailored Plan launch was delayed until April 2023 to allow for more time for provider enrollment. The Division of Health Benefits would like to ensure a seamless transition for beneficiaries and recognized that access to health care was particularly critical for the population of people served by tailored plans (i.e., people who have severe and persistent mental illness, traumatic brain injuries, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders).

Medicaid expansion is still being actively planned for as the General Assembly, DHHS and other stakeholders work through challenges. Counties have expressed concerns about workforce shortages and the impact an increase in Medicaid beneficiaries would create. The Division of Health Benefits was working on reducing the impact through technology improvements and will ask for flexibilities both at the federal and state level.

**Family Services:**

NC DSS is launching a Child Welfare Workforce Campaign from October through December to raise awareness of child welfare work. The campaign will target schools (including high schools, community colleges, and universities) and employees who left the field and may be willing to return. As a part of the campaign there will be research and focus groups. There will be media ads and each county will receive a toolkit that is specific to the needs of their region. The toolkits will have recruitment literature, tablecloth for recruitment table, and electronic information that can be tailored.

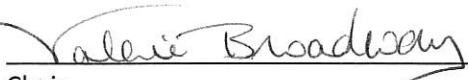
The first Evidenced Based Practices for Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to be implemented are Homebuilders and Parents as Teachers. Both are considered well supported on evidenced based clearinghouse. For federal IV-E funds to be claimed the prevention services must meet evidenced based criteria. It is anticipated that Homebuilders will roll out in the first half of 2023. Currently, NC DSS is working to secure providers. There was an application process that started in August and the selection process is underway. The second prevention program, Parents as Teachers, will be implemented in collaboration with the purveyor of the model and a contract has not yet been finalized.

**Agency Updates:**

UNC School of Nursing has a mobile health clinic using Miss Penny, a Winnebago, in the DSS parking lot on Wednesdays while school is in session. The nursing school staff provided brochures to be given to people visiting DSS.

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn from Memory Dossenbach with a second motion from Tom Droke, with all in favor.

The next meeting will be held on November 16th at 3:00pm in the ground conference room of CCDSS.

  
Chair

11/16/22  
Date

  
Secretary

11/16/22  
Date