

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Jennie Kristiansen, Director

Social Services Board:
Richard Edwards
Thomas Droke
Valerie Broadway
Carl Thompson, Sr.
Pastor Cecil Wilson

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes June 15, 2022

Members in attendance: Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Carl Thompson, Member; Cecil Wilson, Member; Cim Brailer, Deputy Director; Donna Gigowski, Program Manager; LeAnn McKoy, Evaluator/Planner and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Thomas Droke called the meeting to order.

The April and May Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion from Valerie Broadway a second motion from Carl Thompson with all in favor.

Review of Monthly Data:

CPS timeliness had 27 reports accepted in May with only one completed outside of the timeframe for a timeliness percentage of 96%. The one that was not initiated within timeframes was due to difficulty locating the family as the address and phone numbers included in the report were all incorrect. Diligent efforts to locate the family included calling all available contact numbers, home visits, contact with schools and relatives, and Lexis Nexis and CWS system searches. The family was finally located, and the report successfully initiated.

Economic Services Updates:

Economic services had been informed that the Public Health Emergency/COVID waivers will end in October. NC issued additional pandemic funds of \$114M in LIEAP benefit and \$10M in water bill assistance (serving 300,000 households). \$28M remains for water assistance to be used by the end of September 2022. One of the flexibilities that the Public Health Emergency provided was the option to have a telephonic signature. The Division of Health Benefits (DHB) was working through the technicalities to make this permanent which will require voice recording to document. Six counties are piloting a voice recording for applications and reviews. The pilot started in June and will go for 4 weeks. It is anticipated that this could be available statewide by September 2022.

The "go live" for the Medicaid Tailored Plan (TP) for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and/or traumatic brain injury was underway. A statewide call center for the TP will be activated in the near future. The county DSS role is the same as with the first phase of Medicaid transformation. Each beneficiary will have a period to select their plan and a period to change their plan. Local DSS's will be responsible for connecting client with the Enrolment Broker. The TP will also handle Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation.

The Child Support Program underwent an IRS audit in May. While the program passed in every area, there were several recommendations made to increase security and meet program requirements. All employees will be required to sign in and out of the child support work area, additional badge reader door locks will need to be installed on several doors and some modifications will need to be made to printing and fax settings.

Family Services:

At the state level, planning continued for the Child and Family Specialty Plan (CFSP), the Medicaid plan designed to serve all children in foster care and their families. Six Local Management Entities- Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCO's), including Vaya Health which serves Chatham County, recommended that this plan be delayed as it places them at a disadvantage as they are preparing for the roll out of the Tailored Plan which will serve individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, developmental disabilities, and/or traumatic brain injuries. In addition, the LME-MCO's launched the NC Child and Family Improvement Initiative which aims to improve care for children and youth served by the child welfare system. They are convening experts throughout the state to identify solutions. The Division of Health Benefits, which is responsible for the oversight of behavioral health services has indicated that they will still move forward with the NC CFSP to roll out in December 2023.

On Thursday June 9th the Adult Services Unit at DSS hosted an event at CCCC recognizing Elder Abuse Awareness Month. At this event, information was distributed about the impact of self-neglect on adults, prevention, and access to several community agencies and resources. All attendees received a goodie bag.

DSS Board Member Recruitment:

Ms. Kristiansen contacted board applicants selected by the DSS Board for interviews. Interviews are scheduled for June 23rd and 24th.

With no further items to discuss, Tom Droke adjourned the meeting with all in favor.

The next meeting will be held on July 20, 2022 at 3:00pm with virtual and in-person options.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date