

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PO Box 489
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Phone: (919) 542-2759
Fax: (919) 542-6355



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 November 17, 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 and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Valerie Broadway called the meeting to order.

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

There was a presentation to the board members regarding the agency Adult Services Guardianship program presented by Elizabeth Kressmann -St.Pierre.

Review of Monthly Data:

There were 21 accepted CPS reports in October. Three reports were initiated outside of timeframe, with a timeliness of 86%. In one report, the family was out of town and the response time was "immediate." The other two were late due to scheduling and coordination conflicts.

Economic Services Updates:

The public health emergency remains in place. NC should be given a 60-day notice prior to the end date. NC will receive an additional \$25 million in funding to the regular \$97 million allocation of Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds. Automatic payments will be sent out to energy providers on December 29th for people who are over 60, disabled, eligible for Food and Nutrition services, or received an automatic LIEAP payment last year. This is the first year that energy payments have been issued automatically to vendors and the payments will not be made by the counties.

Chatham County DSS was notified that they have been selected for Medicaid straight through processing starting on January 1st. This means that certain Medicaid applications will be processed automatically by NCFASST.

The Medicaid program is 8 months into a 10-month REDA (Recipient Eligibility Determination Audit). September is being reviewed and all reviews had been correct. In August, there were two errors. One was an eligibility error, and one was an internal control error. Twenty cases were being reviewed each

month. The Work First Program had a review of their Program Improvement Plan, and all errors were found to have been corrected. The errors cited on the ten cases reviewed (held in 12/2021), were an unchecked box on two applications and an incorrect month entered on an evaluation form.

Childcare providers participating in the subsidy programs will receive a rate increase that is retroactive to July. NCFAST will be issuing an automatic underpayment for the retroactive months. The rate increases are largest for centers and range from \$220 for a three-star center serving a school aged child (smallest increase) to \$393 for a five-star center serving 3-5 year old children (largest increase). For childcare homes the increases range from \$26 a month for a three-star home serving a school aged child to \$190 for a 5-star home serving 3-5 year old children.

Family Services:

A small team has been collaborating with the Visitation Center to plan for a pilot project to increase the amount of family time that parents and children in foster care have together. Vaya sub-capitation funds provided to DSS will help fund two temporary positions. One will be a transportation aide to help get parents and children to visits and the other is a family visitation position to assist with supervision and support during visits. The jobs will be posted in the next month. The clinical team is developing training to be provided to social workers and visitation center staff to help improve planning and quality of family time.

Agency Updates:

A subcommittee of the Chatham County Housing and Homelessness Workgroup was awarded a \$40,000 grant to conduct street outreach. Triangle J Council of Governments will be overseeing this grant and will hire a part time street outreach worker to assist. Also, Chatham County will be funding the development of a strategic plan for street outreach. Partners for Change will be leading the work. Several DSS employees serve on the workgroup.

The agency held a Halloween Costume Contest on 10/31 and a Friendsgiving celebration on 11/3.

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

The next meeting will be held on December 21st at 3:00pm in the ground conference room of CCDSS.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date