

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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 June 21, 2023

Members in attendance: Valerie Broadway, Chair; Cecil Wilson, Member; Sara Welch, Member; Memory Dossenbach, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; Mike Zelek, Chatham County Health Department Director and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Valerie Broadway called the meeting to order.

There was a motion to approve the May Meeting Minutes from Sara Welch with a second motion from Memory Dossenbach, with all in favor.

There was a motion to approve the annual Energy Outreach Plan by Cecil Wilson with a second motion from Sara Welch, with all in favor.

Jennie Kristiansen and Mike Zelek presented information from the Annual Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team Meeting.

Economic Services:

Medicaid expansion is still contingent upon the passage of a budget by the General Assembly. The NC Division of Health Benefits shared some additional information with counties regarding the new program called MXP that will be based on an existing budgeting requirement called Magi. Also, counties will no longer be required to obtain two forms of verification for eligibility. Chatham County received a one-time payment (\$211,000) for Medicaid expansion that is to be used for next fiscal year. While the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) program ended, NC plans to issue supplemental payments to all households that have received assistance to ensure that NC spends the entire allocation provided.

The new voicemail messages and mailboxes were set up to be in compliance with the new telephone system requirements for DSS agencies.

Family Services:

Data collection started for the child welfare workload study. Thirty children were selected from Chatham County and the assigned social workers will be tracking the details of their work on each case from June 12-July 21st. This data collection will be used to revise the state standards for caseload/workload.

The Elder Abuse Awareness Month events were successful and well attended. Approximately 175 people came to the event at the Western Senior Center.

Agency:

Ms. Kristiansen provided an overview of the DSS 360 survey results. The survey included 33 items which are mostly ratings with four response options (does not meet standards, needs improvement, meets standards, exceeds standards) and some narrative questions. Almost all items were rated as meeting or exceeding standards and the comments were also mostly positive. The responses indicated that employees appreciate the support and communication that is provided.

The Homelessness Prevention Program launched on June 15th and has been steady since the start. Applicants can use a paper or online application. Approximately 2/3 of applications have been submitted in paper and 1/3 online. Applications are accepted from the 15th through the end of each month until funds are exhausted.

Review of Monthly Data:

There were 39 accepted CPS reports in May. Five reports were initiated outside of the timeframe, with a timeliness of 87%. The reports that were outside of the initiation timeframe were due to children traveling, county transfers, accommodations of parent schedules and incomplete information about household members.

Next Meeting:

A tour is scheduled for the DSS Visitation Center; Ms. Kristiansen will be absent.


There was a motion to enter a closed session to discuss the Directors annual performance evaluation from Cecil Wilson with a second motion from Sara Welch, with all in favor.

The next meeting will be held July 19, 2023 in the ground conference room of CCDSS at 3:00.



Vice Chair

12-20-23
Date



Secretary

12/20/23
Date