

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Board:
Cecil Wilson
Sara Welch
Memory Dossenbach
Peter Varney

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes November 15, 2023

Members in attendance: Cecil Wilson, Vice President; Memory Dossenbach, Member; Peter Varney, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director; Jason Smith, Housing Development Manager; LeAnn McKcoy, Planner/Evaluator and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Cecil Wilson called the meeting to order.

June, July, August and September Meeting Minutes were tabled for the December meeting for vote.

There was a motion to approve the October Minutes from Memory Dossenbach with a second motion from Peter Varney with all in favor.

There was a motion to approve moving the meeting time from 3:00pm to 4:00pm by Memory Dossenbach with a second motion from Peter Varney with all in favor. A Public Notice will be issued to announce the new meeting time.

Members reviewed the monthly data report.

Jason Smith gave an update on housing projects including data collection on the Emergency Housing Assistance Program.

Economic Services Updates:

Donna Gigowski and Jennie Kristiansen shared information regarding Chatham County DSS's plans for Medicaid expansion. The Medicaid team is preparing for a response like Disaster Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (DSNAP) which are payments issued after natural disasters that traditionally have resulted in high volumes of visitors to DSS. Plans include the use of non-Medicaid staff to assist with paper applications, directing visitors and assisting with EPASS applications. Experienced Medicaid case workers will be focused on processing applications and reviews.

At the state level, notifications were sent to 260,000 people who will be eligible for Medicaid starting on December 1st. These notifications are going through text messages, phone calls, and emails. There are some beneficiaries currently receiving family planning who will still not be eligible because their income exceeds eligibility levels, even though the income levels are higher than in the past.

Work on updating the Medicaid manual is still underway.

Another letter went out from NC DHHS to counties regarding problems with county DSS phone systems and the requirements to be able to leave a message after hours or on the weekends (without requiring the caller to use the directory). The funding provided to counties for Medicaid expansion can be used toward phone system improvements. Currently, twenty counties are out of compliance, however, Chatham is not one of them.

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will begin on 12/1/23 for priority groups (i.e., elderly or disabled and receiving services from Division of Aging and Adult Services). Individuals who are in a priority group, received a LIEAP benefit last year, and are currently receiving FNS benefits will receive an automatic payment. LIEAP for all other households will begin on January 2, 2024, and run through March 31, 2024, or until funds are expended. Statewide funding is \$55 million lower than last year.

Family Services Updates:

Preparations continued for the federal IV-E review. This will happen during summer 2024 and 100 foster care cases will be reviewed statewide. To pass the audit, the state will need to have a 96% accuracy rate (i.e., four error cases). If NC fails, there will be another audit with a larger sample size, and it could result in the payback of IV-E funding.

Discovery sessions are planned for the work being done in the Child Welfare Information Sessions. These will be a series of meetings to bring the voice and expertise of subject matter experts. County input will be used to identify what the top priorities are (i.e., what is good to have versus great) to better balance funds, time, and quality. During the sessions, attendees will assist with evaluating the work flow and break it down into the day to day functions (e.g., using technology to eliminate or minimize duplication that is a part of paper processes).

NCDHHS is continuing to share information about the CFSR round 4. Many of the performance outcomes are trending lower than they were in the prior review. Some areas that are bright spots are in permanency and visits.

The first evidenced based prevention program that is being implemented in NC as a part of Family First Prevention Services Act is called Homebuilders. Chatham County has been selected to participate in the first round of implementation with training for providers beginning in January 2024.

The board discussed updates regarding the current vacancy.

With no further items to discuss there was a motion to adjourn from Peter Varney with a second motion from Memory Dossenbach with all in favor.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 20, 2023 in the ground conference room of CCDSS at 4:00.



Vice Chair

12-20-23
Date



Secretary

12/20/23
Date