

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Board:
Cecil Wilson
Sara Welch
Memory Dossenbach

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes September 20, 2023

Members in attendance: Sara Welch, Member; Memory Dossenbach; Jennie Kristiansen; Director; LeAnn McKcoy, Planner/Evaluator and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Sara Welch called the meeting to order.

Without a quorum the June, July, August and September Meeting Minutes were tabled for the October Meeting for vote.

Ms. Welch and Ms. Dossenbach reviewed the monthly data report.

Economic Services Updates:

Medicaid expansion was still in a holding pattern waiting for the state budget approval. Some technology updates were taking place and DHB continued to work on complying with the Franklin v. Kinsley settlement agreement. In October, certain verifications entered through the FFM (Federally Facilitated Marketplace) will be accepted by NCFAST and will not require re-verification by the DSS caseworker. These verifications are social security number, citizenship, and state residency. If these can be accepted, then NCFAST will attempt to straight through process the application so that it does not require any case worker time. This is the first step in NC becoming a "FFM determination state" which, if it works properly, will improve efficiency for Medicaid case workers and is a part of a larger project to gradually increase automation in a way that does overwhelm the system if there are problems.

In the Franklin v. Kinsley settlement, the last items that NC must come into compliance on are audits of Medicaid terminations and reductions. The Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, which is managing the settlement, will get a sample of 582 cases statewide. Each county will have cases selected every month (Chatham will have seven). For the cases selected, counties will be required to add any additional documents that are stored outside of NCFAST into NCFAST so that the file can be reviewed. Because of this settlement, the Division of Health Benefits will now require all counties to only use NCFAST as a source of document management.

Funding was extended for enhanced payments for the Special Assistance Program. \$48 million in non-recurring funds were allocated and these enhanced payments (\$123 per month) are anticipated to continue until December 2023.

Family Services Updates:

NC is preparing for the next federal IV-E review that is anticipated to take place during the summer of 2024. The IV-E program supports children in foster care by providing reimbursements to states for certain costs including employee salaries and board rates. There is a required state and county match for the funding and specific criteria for eligibility including legal requirements, family income, and placement. The period under review for NC will be April to September 2023. Counties should be conducting a 100% review of all IV-E eligible children to ensure that their determinations (and re-determinations) are accurate.

September 11-15 was Child Welfare Worker Recognition Week. The child welfare supervisor team honored employees with several fun activities including donuts and coffee and a pizza lunch. The team also gathered to eat popcorn and watch the national Recognition Week Event hosted by the Children's Bureau.


Agency Updates:

The new Emergency Housing Coordinator position has been filled and Jason Smith will be starting on Monday September 25th. He brings experience in both government and non-profits. Also, Chatham County hosted a 2-day housing strategic planning session at the end of August.

The Board members discussed an interview schedule for applicants for the two vacant positions.

With no further items to discuss, Sara Welch adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2023 in the ground conference room of CCDSS at 3:00.



Vice Chair

12-20-23
Date



Secretary

12/20/23
Date