

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

CHATHAM COUNTY

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Chatham County Board of Social Services Session Meeting Minutes April 17, 2024

Members in attendance: Sara Welch, President; Cecil Wilson, Member; Peter Varney, Member; Maria Soto, Member; Jennie Kristiansen; Director; Donna Gigowski, Economic Services Program Administrator; Morgan Bare, Program Integrity Representative; LeAnn McKoy, Planner/Evaluator and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Sara Welch called the meeting to order.

The members reviewed the monthly data report.

Morgan Bare presented information on the Program Integrity Unit at DSS. The Program Integrity Unit investigates cases of fraud and/or abuse in the Food and Nutrition, Energy Assistance and Medicaid public assistance programs. Per NC law persons applying for these programs must provide all the information needed to determine eligibility requirements. If falsified information is provided, paybacks or criminal prosecution may be consequences.

Economic Services Updates:

As of the week of April 8th 419,000 people are enrolled in Medicaid expansion statewide. There is a data dashboard on the [Division of Health Benefits \(DHB\) website](#) that indicates that Chatham County has enrolled almost 1,800 people. DHB has continued to thank counties for their work in enrolling applicants and handling the additional workload and traffic. There continue to be some concerns about timeliness in processing applications and this is something that is being closely followed locally. Chatham County has met timeliness standards.

Preparations for the next major Medicaid initiative, the launch of the Tailored Plans, remain underway. There is a new Tailored Plan toolkit on the DHB website. The Medicaid program has also requested a waiver to allow for a streamlined application process for Medicaid for youth up to age 26 who were formerly in foster care (including out of state youth). If a youth attests to being formerly in foster care, then only some other basic information will need to be collected (e.g. demographics, citizenship, residence). This will also eliminate the former foster youth category of Medicaid. Finally, a demo was provided to a small number of counties on the new document management features in NCFast to assist counties with timely scanning and indexing of documents. The NCFast team listened to questions and concerns regarding the new features and are working on an updated demo to better address county needs.

Both energy programs, Low Income Energy Assistance Program and Crisis Intervention Program have wrapped up. There are still funds available in the county emergency assistance line item that allow emergency support to be provided.

Family Services Updates:

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and was recognized in Chatham County with a “Wear Blue Day” on Friday April 5th, a proclamation at the April 15, 2024, Board of Commissioners Meeting, and a media release from both the Department of Social Services and Division of Health Benefits.

Stakeholder interviews and file reviews are being conducted during the next two weeks for round four of the federal Child and Family Services Review. Chatham County had one in-home services case pulled for the federal review, which started Monday. Jennie Kristiansen will participate in a stakeholder interview with the Children’s Bureau next Monday. Almost 40 counties and 100 DSS staff will be included in the interviews. Birth and resource parents, youth, and attorneys will also be included.

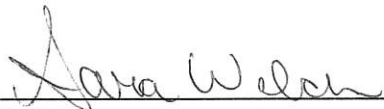
Agency Updates:

DSS will be getting carpet replaced throughout the building before the end of the fiscal year. This will require some shifting around of employees during what is anticipated to be a 3–4-week process.

During the agency staff meeting later in April, Lee Staton, the Executive Director of the Chatham Housing Authority will give an update on their services. Jennie Kristiansen will also present the results of the annual 360 Survey of the management team. The surveying is finishing up at the end of this week.

The next meeting will be held on May 15, 2024, at 4:00pm in the Ground Conference Room at CCDSS. During the May meeting there will be an overview of the Energy Assistance Program. Planning a tentative presentation on the LINKS Program during July/August meeting

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



Chair

5/15/24
Date



Secretary

6/15/24
Date