

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2019

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on July 16, 2019, at 6:35 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

Present were:

Gary Westmoreland, Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Member

C.B. McKinnon, Member

Roy Dickey, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk

Chairman Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Clerk to the Board, Amanda Rhodes, recorded the minutes.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications made to the agenda.

IV. Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Roy Dickey made a motion to accept the Agenda, Commissioner Cal Stiles 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda.

V. Public Forum

There were no Board or public comments or questions.

VI. Minutes June 18, 2019

The June 18, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes were approved, Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to accept, Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the June 18, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VII. New Business

A. Energy Outreach Policy

Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to approve the Energy Program Outreach Plan, Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion, with all in favor of approving the plan.

B. Child Care Waiting List Policy

Commissioner Stiles made a motion to accept the Region A Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program, Commissioner Dickey 2nd the motion, with all in favor of approving the policy.

VIII. Directors Report

Director McGee provided the Board with the Director's Report.

1. REAL Training

Director McGee discussed the June 26, 2019 meeting with WCU Dean, Phillip Redmond of the Duke Endowment, Sheila Sutton and Jerri McFall, DSS Directors of Swain and

Henderson Counties, Kevin Moreno, Program Administrator, Henderson County DSS, Tanya Westbrook, and WCU Social Work Development. Director McGee discussed the opportunities for grant funding through The Duke Endowment.

2. Medicaid Managed Care

- a.** Director McGee discussed how the 1.6 million of the 2.1 million beneficiaries will begin to move into the new Medicaid managed care system. Cherokee County Department of Social Services has completed the required and optional training to prepare the agency staff. CCDSS will have an enrollment broker on-site during the transition period.

- b.** Director McGee discussed how a North Carolina administrative law judge denied request from major health coverage entities that attempted to stop the State Department of Health and Human Services movement toward the Medicare Managed Care transition.

3. Legal Update

DSS Court June 11, 2019:

Attorney Duncan discussed the DSS Court date June 11, 2019. There were 4 cases resolved by final guardianship orders; 15 cases resolved by consent orders; 1 case was adjudicated; 2 relinquishments of parental rights; 1 termination of parental rights heard and granted; 5 continued non-secure hearings; 2 cases which included 6 children was continued; 13 cases were continued for the parents; and 1 case was continued to monitor in-home progress.

Other Court:

Attorney Duncan attended one Superior Court appearance; three non-secure appearances; and attended three Graham County court sessions for conflict cases.

4. Audits and Reviews

- a. On June 20, 2019, Adult Services received 96% with 4 minor corrective action items. Cherokee County Department of Social Services is in the top 3 in 23 counties.
- b. On June 18, 2019, Child Support IRS Audit passed with high praises.
- c. Upcoming Audit Reviews:
 - On July 16, 2019, Child Care received 95
 - In July and August, will be the County Single Audit to audit the Medicaid Adult and Family and Children's.

5. State concern about multiple same purpose audits

Cherokee County Department of Social Services supports the statewide Director's Association concern that there are now three Medicaid audits each year: the single county audit, the legislative audit of 200 cases per county, and the State Auditor's audit of 700 cases statewide.

6. Seven County Recovery Summit

Director McGee discussed how organizers are working to mobilize the 7 western counties in an effort to develop and enhance access to substance use and abuse services. The initiative is supported by Recoveryall.org.

7. Raise the Age Law

Attorney Duncan briefly discussed how 16 and 17 year old individuals will no longer be charged as adults within the criminal system in North Carolina. The age has been raised to the 18 years of age.

G.S. 7B-1905(a) allows for non-secure custody of a juvenile to be placed with DSS while a delinquency case is being processed through the court system. There is concern that the Raise the Age law will increase the courts utilization of DSS custody. DSS is planning meetings with DJJ and other stakeholders to increase and improve resources for teens involved within the juvenile justice system.

8. Family First Prevention Services Act and Rylan's Law

Director McGee discussed how she was appointed by DHHS to participate on the task force to drive North Carolina changes in child welfare due to the Family First Prevention Services Act and Rylan's Law. The group will develop the North Carolina Prevention Plan to be submitted to the federal Children's bureau in April 2020.

IX. Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the statistical report for June 2019.

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M. with Commissioner Cal Stiles making a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion and all in favor. The next DSS Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on August 20, 2019 at the Department of Social Services.

****These minutes were approved at the August 20, 2019 DSS Board Meeting****