

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2020

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on January 23, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

Present were:

Roy Dickey, Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Member

C.B. McKinnon, Member

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk

Chairman Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Clerk to the Board, Amanda Rhodes, recorded the minutes.

II. Modification of Agenda

Director McGee requested that the Child Fatality Prevention and Child Protection Team be added to the agenda. Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to add the Child

Fatality Prevention and Child Protection Team be added to the agenda, with Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion, with all in favor to the modification.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

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

IV. Public Forum

There were no Board or public comments or questions.

V. Minutes November 21, 2019 and December 2, 2019

The November 21, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes and the December 2, 2019 were approved. Commissioner Westmoreland made a motion to accept, Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the November 21, 2019 and the December 2, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VI. Directors Report

Director McGee provided the Board with a brief overview of several new items on the director's Report.

Staffing Medicaid Unit

Director McGee discussed workload challenges facing the Medicaid unit as a result of turnover. Director McGee provided the DSS Board with information about turnover including reasons related to low salaries and high caseloads. Director McGee provided two possible solutions to the turnover. The first proposed solution is to approve overtime pay for Medicaid workers who are required to work overtime to meet state standards. The second solution is to approve a salary adjustment commensurate with surrounding counties to eliminate or reduce turnover due to salary. Following discussion about the level of salary adjustment that would be necessary, the DSS Board requested that Director McGee bring to the next DSS Board meeting a proposal for salary adjustments.

Position Reallocation

Director McGee requested that the Board approve the reallocation of a Social Work III position that has been unfilled since May of 2019, to a Social Work Supervisor position. Director McGee provided a rationale that this move would more appropriately handle the high level of expertise necessary in adoptions, foster parent recruitment, licensing and training. The DSS Board requested that Director McGee fill the new Social Work Supervisor position as described, as a new position rather than reallocating the SW III position. The DSS Board requested that at the time the social work III position is filled a budget amendment is necessary, Director McGee will bring the request to the Board.

Commissioner Westmoreland made a motion to approve overtime pay for the Medicaid Unit and approve the SWS position, Commissioner Dickey 2nd the motion, with all in favor.

Committee's and Task Force Appointments

Director McGee informed the Board of her appointment to the North Carolina Child Well-Being Task Force to address gaps and system problems. The panel will meet on February 20, 2020.

Child Fatality Prevention/ Community Child Protection Team

Director McGee provided Board with a brief overview of the Child Fatality Prevention/Child Protection Team.

Legal Report

Attorney Duncan briefly discussed the DSS court dates in November 18-19, 2019, December 2-3, 2019; and the Child Support Court dates on November 22, 2019 and December 12, 2019.

VII. Closed Session

In accordance with N.C.G.S., 143.318.11(a)3, upon Commissioner McKinnon's motion and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum, with all in favor, the DSS Board entered into a closed session at 7:20 P.M. The closed session was adjourned at 8:00 P.M., on a motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Stiles, with all in favor.

VIII. Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the statistical report for December, 2019.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M. with Commissioner Westmoreland making a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion, and all in favor.

These minutes were approved by the DSS Board on February 27, 2020.