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CHEROKEE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

4800 West U.S. Highway 64, Murphy, NC 28906

828-837-7455

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**Cherokee County Department of Social Services**

**Board Meeting**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 18, 2025**

1. **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on February 18, 2025, at 5:04 P.M. at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

**Board Members Present:**

Dr. Catherine Yost, Member

Bo Phillips, Member

James Jallah, Member

**Staff present:**

Amanda T. McGee, Director

Andria Duncan, Attorney

Brandy Clonts, Administrative Officer

**Public Forum:**

None

1. **Discussion and Adoption of Agenda**

**•Motion to Adopt Agenda:** Mr. James Jallah made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Catherine Yost seconded. All voted in favor.

1. **Meeting Minute**

**•Motion to Approve Minutes:** Mr. James Jallah made a motion to approve the January 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Catherine Yost seconded. All voted in favor.

1. **Public Comments**

None

1. **Old Business**
   1. **Threat Assessment Progress – Active Shooter Training**
      * Administrative Officer, Brandy Clonts provided the rescheduled Active Shooter Training for March 11, 2025.
   2. **DHHS MOU Performance Measures**
      * Director, Amanda McGee, presented the **NC Social Service System Transparency and Wellness Dashboard**, highlighting performance measures for the following programs: **APS**, **Child Welfare**, **Child Support**, and **Food and Nutrition Services**.
      * Dr. Kathrine Yost suggested implementing a process to provide records for transparency to the scout and at commissioners' meetings.
2. **New Business**
   1. **DSS Miles That Matter Fund Raiser**

The **“Miles That Matter”** is a 5K Walk/Run fundraiser to benefit children in Cherokee County DSS Foster Care. The event aims to raise awareness about the needs of children in foster care and those waiting to be adopted, while also raising funds to support their needs.

* 1. **DSS Employee Retention Mid-Year Review**
     + Administrative Officer, Brandy Clonts provided employee retention statistics from **July 2024 – December 2024**. With an average of **68 employees**, the mid-year retention percentage is **13.2%**. Director McGee expressed that there is good morale throughout the agency and that accountability is now a part of the agency's culture.
  2. **NC PATH Roll-out for CPS**
     + As part of **Rylan’s Law**, the State of NC is rolling out a cloud-based system statewide on **April 28, 2025**. The program aims to provide accountability and safety for children in custody. An employee has participated in a feedback training in Raleigh for the new system.
  3. **Director Board Appointments and Staff Kudos**
     + Director, Amanda McGee provided the following list of boards that she is appointed to:
       1. Vaya Health Regional Board
       2. Southwestern Child Development Commission Board of Directors
       3. Tri County Community College Human Services Advisory Board
       4. UNC Pembroke College of Health Sciences / Department of Social Work Advisory Board
       5. NCACDSS Advocacy Tri-Chair
       6. DHHS CQI / QA Design Team
     + Administrative Officer, Brandy Clonts, was recently appointed to the NC State Employee Credit Union Advisory Board. She also assists her husband as head coach of the Ranger 10U Baseball Team.
     + DSS Attorney, Andria Duncan, is a member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
     + CPS In-home Social Worker, Stephanie Mull, volunteers at the local Domestic Violence Shelter and is planning to become certified in Triple P Parenting.
     + APS Supervisor, Daunita Maennle, is a board member of our local Domestic Violence Shelter.

1. **DSS Service Report**

The **DSS Service Report** was accepted and is trending as expected. There are no concerns regarding federal cuts. Some partner agencies have had their funds frozen, putting them at risk.

1. **Adjourn**

Mr. James Jallah made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Kathrine Yost seconded. All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.