

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2021

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on March 16, 2021, at 6:29 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

Present were:

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Randy Phillips, Member

Jan Griggs, Member

Dawn McCurdy, Guardian ad Litem

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board

Mendy Lance, Medicaid Supervisor

Michelle Chastain, Medicaid Supervisor

Lisa Wells, CCDSS Assistant Director/Program Manager

Mrs. Griggs called the meeting to order at 6:29 P.M., and Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

II. Modification of Agenda

There was no modification to the agenda.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Phillips made a motion to adopt the agenda, with Mr. Westmoreland seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda.

IV. Public Forum

There was no Board or public comments or questions.

V. Approval of Minutes

February 16, 2021

Mr. Westmoreland made a motion to accept, Mr. Phillips seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the February 16, 2021 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VI. Old Business

A. Vaya Health/DSS One Home Initiative

Director McGee updated the Board regarding the progress that CCDSS, Youth Villages, and Vaya Health has made toward the One Home Initiative. The goal is for CCDSS to provide foster parents with an enhanced rate with therapeutic wrap-around services as well as to be able to have foster children closer to Cherokee County, to prevent foster children from having multiple placements, and to reunify foster children with their families more quickly. Director McGee informed the Board that assessments are already in progress and that the One Home Initiative is scheduled to go into effect on February 24, 2021 for foster families.

VII. New Business

a. DSS Building Space Projections

Director McGee discussed how the current CCDSS building is not as functional as it may have once been. Director McGee discussed that the building is large enough, but needs to be redesigned to be more accommodate the employees as well as the public. Director McGee reached out to an architect who did a walk-through of the building and discussed the possibility of redesigning the building in order for it to be more efficient and more functional. Director McGee requested the Board to approve \$5,000 to pay for the architect to develop a proposed design of the building to see how feasible it could be. Mr. Westmoreland made a motion to approve the cost (5,000) of the proposed design of the CCDSS building, with Mr. Phillips seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved \$5,000 for the proposed design of the CCDSS building.

b. REDA Audit Results

Director McGee updated the Board about the recent audit and the possibility of two possible corrective actions.

c. Medicaid Transformation

Director McGee informed the Board of the upcoming changes in Medicaid. These changes were discussed last year, but was unable to go into effect as planned at that time. Director McGee discussed how these changes were projected to occur in the near future which would cause increase workloads for DSS employees and an influx of traffic.

d. Family First Prevention Services Act

Director McGee briefly discussed the Family Prevention Services Act will go into effect nationwide on October 1, 2022.

e. Budget Request

Director McGee discussed the need to add two additional Income Maintenance positions to assist with the upcoming affects due to the change in Medicaid services and to meet the State Quality Assurance requirements and to minimize the possibility of paybacks to the county. Director McGee also discussed the need to convert a clerk position to a back-up business officer and to move a day time position to an after-hours position to handle after-hour reports, initiations, etc. in child welfare which in turn may decrease the amount of overtime. Director McGee informed the Board that her intentions of amending the budget to reflect the above mentioned positions. Mr. Westmoreland made a motion to approve the budget requests, with Mr. Phillips seconding the motion, with all in favor.

VIII. Director's Report/Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the statistical report for February, 2021.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 P.M. with Mr. Phillips making a motion to adjourn, Mr. Westmoreland seconding the motion, and all in favor.