

**Cherokee County Department of Social Services**

**Board of Directors**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**March 22, 2022**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on March 22, 2022, at 6:30 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, NC 28906.

**Present were:**

Dan Eichenbaum, Chair

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Jan Griggs, Member

**Staff present were:**

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Eichenbaum called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., and Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

**II. Modification of Agenda**

Director McGee requested for an Adult Protective Services Update section be added as 7B under the *Walk Me Home* Fundraiser Event. Mrs. Griggs made a motion to modify the agenda as requested, with Mr. Westmoreland seconding the motion, and all in favor.

**III. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mrs. Griggs made a motion, with Mr. Westmoreland seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda as modified.

**IV. Public Forum**

Mr. Westmoreland discussed that for last nine years, the “certificate of need” has blocked Cherokee County from having an assisted living facility. However, Mr. Westmoreland discussed that if that barrier was removed, there would be a possibility that Cherokee County could obtain an 82 bed assisted living and an urgent care.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**January, 2022 and February, 2022**

Mr. Westmoreland made a motion to accept, Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the January, 2022 and February, 2022 DSS Board meeting minutes.

**VI. DSS Fundraiser Event and Adult Protective Services (APS) Update**

**A. DSS Foster Care *Walk Me Home* fundraiser event May 21, 2022**

Adoption Supervisor, Rosanne Handford and Social Workers Elisabeth Nantz and Hope Beckham informed the Board about the *Walk Me Home* fundraiser event that is scheduled for May 21, 2022. The monies raised helps support Cherokee County foster families and children. The goal for this year’s event is \$15,000 and within the last two days, there has been approximately \$2,000 in donations.

**B. Adult Protective Services (APS) Update**

APS Supervisor, Daunita Maennle informed the Board that the APS unit is presently comprised of three social workers and two In-Home Aides. Mrs. Maennle also stated that that there are currently 23 guardianships, 18 rep payees, 7 special assistance cases in In-Home, and 38 cases with an In-Home Aid to prevent guardianship. Mrs. Maennle also expressed how Cherokee County needs additional Adult Care Homes. In May, 2021, Cherokee County had 6 Adult Care Homes and at this time, there are only 3 adult homes in the area. Director McGee informed the Board that Mrs. Maennle has recently facilitated the first MDT for adults in Cherokee County.

**VII. Old Business**

**A. Recruitment and Hiring status for After Hours CPS Team**

Director McGee updated the Board that the After Hours Team for CPS and APS will launch on March 28, 2022. The After Hours Team covers all on-call duties from 4 p.m. until 8 a.m. with its team members rotating weekly.

**B. Recruitment and hiring of open child welfare positions**

Director McGee informed the Board of the two daytime child welfare workers that transitioned to the after hours team.

**VIII. Closed Session pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.119 (a) (6)**

Director McGee informed the Board that a closed session was no longer necessary and therefore, the closed session did not occur.

**IX. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M. with Mrs. Griggs making a motion to adjourn, Mr. Westmoreland seconding the motion, and all in favor.