**Cherokee County Department of Social Services**

**Board Meeting**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**March 19, 2024**

1. **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on March 19, 2024, at 5:03 P.M. at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

**Present were:**

Bo Phillips, Member

Dixie Carter, Member

James Jallah, Member

Pat Ivie, Member

**Staff present were:**

Andria Duncan, Attorney

Tracy Jones, Program Manager

Brandy Clonts, Administrative Officer

1. **Public Forum**

None

1. **Approval of DSS Board Minutes**

Board minutes from February 21, 2024 approved.

Motion was made by Mrs. Ivie. Seconded by Mr. Jallah.

1. **Review of 2024 – 2025 Budget Request**

Budget requests were reviewed by all members with no questions.

1. **Walk Me Home Event / Cottage Opening**

Attorney Andria Duncan provided information regarding the Walk Me Home Event scheduled for June 15, 2024. Walk Me Home was created to generate awareness of foster care, recruit and maintain foster families and to raise funds to support the programs for foster families. Julie Thompson is the lead planner for the event.

-There will be a scheduled grand opening of the Cottage that will be publicized. There are still a few items that are needed in the cottage before the opening, but is currently being used for visitations.

1. **Child Welfare Court Delays**

Attorney Andria Duncan explained Child Welfare Court Delays. There are 7 county districts, 1-2 court dates per month with 28-40 cases per court day. There are also a limited court appointed attorneys. There has been a district wide meeting to resolve the issues. At this time there is to be one additional judge.

1. **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM with Mrs. Carter making a motion to adjourn, Mr. Jallah seconding the motion, with all in favor.

**Items discussed that were not on the Agenda:**

* Mr. Phillips discussed the bonus payments for Income Maintenance Employees discussed in last Board Meeting. Bonuses were not given due to the methods the CCU funds were distributed.
* Cherokee County now has a suggestion box available for all employees to make anonymous suggestions along with “shout outs” for other staff members.
* Board Report was reviewed and discussed.