

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2019

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on February 19, 2019, at 6:30 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

Present were:

Gary Westmoreland, Chair

Roy Dickey, Vice Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

C.B. McKinnon, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications made to the agenda.

4. Agenda Adoption

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

5. Public Forum

There were no Board or public comments or questions.

6. Minutes January 17, 2019

The January 17, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes were approved, Commissioner CB McKinnon made a motion to accept, Commissioner Cal Stiles 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the January 17, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes.

7. Directors Report

Director McGee provided a review of the Director's Report provided in the Board Packet. The following items were covered:

- a) Director McGee presented the progress of NCFASST since DSS went live on January 22, 2019. DSS had 100% success with timely and accurate In-take and 100% timely Initiation Rate.
- b) Director McGee discussed the State Child Welfare Monitoring Staff completed a review of In-home cases on January 23 and 24, 2019. There were no major corrective action noted or required.
- c) Director McGee discussed the State Child Welfare Consultation and Training. The State Program Representatives were on-site on January 22 and 23, 2019 to assist child welfare staff with data reports, child abuse/neglect case decision making and documentation and in-home services program standards. The goal is to have training available closer to the western NC counties.
- d) Director McGee discussed the review conducted for the Social Services Block Grant and the Title IV E Monitoring. There were five cases reviewed for the Block Grant and all five were non-error cases. There five cases reviewed for Adoption Assistance Eligibility and four were non-error cases. One case from 2012 was reviewed and found to require corrective action before March 7, 2019.
- e) Attorney Duncan provided a judicial update for the January 24, 2019 DSS court date. There were fifteen cases with court orders achieved in six, which included one final guardianship review, one termination of parental rights granted, and relinquishments regarding one child. There were five continuances (1) Required Termination of Parental Rights Service, (2) Established Paternity in a Termination of Parental Rights case (3) Two Defendants were not present (4) Discovery Compliance (5) DSS Continuance request. There were two additional non-secure court hearings for four new children in DSS custody. Child Support Court was held on January 28, 2019 with 21 actions out of a total of 34 defendants. The Adult Protective

Services was granted a motion to change venue on one case and a new case was scheduled to be heard on February 12, 2019.

- f.) Director McGee provided information about the upcoming changes to Medicaid and how the transformation may cause concerns with the community regarding their healthcare. Director McGee discussed how DSS plans to educate the community to meet the individual needs and options for the plans that will be offered.
- g.) Director McGee discussed the options for managing the amendment to the State Law 2017-57 section 11H.22.f referred to as Audit of the County/Medicaid Eligibility Determinations, effective January 1, 2019. Director McGee discussed the option of liability insurance to cover costs for the County.
- h.) Director McGee discussed how DSS is preparing a Child Abuse Prevention event in April in collaboration with the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, District Attorney, HAVEN, the Guardian ad Litem program, and District Judges.

8. Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the statistical report for January 2019. DSS currently has four vacancies, no new hires, and one resignation.

9. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M. with Commissioner Cal Stiles making a motion to adjourn, Chairman Westmoreland 2nd the motion and all in favor. The next DSS Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on March 19, 2019 at the Department of Social Services.