

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2020

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on March 17, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, NC 28906.

Present were:

Roy Dickey, Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

C.B. McKinnon, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Chairman Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., DSS Attorney, Andria Duncan recorded the minutes.

II. Modification of Agenda

Director McGee requested to revisit the item from the January Board meeting in reference to adding another position to decrease the caseloads in the Medicaid Unit. Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to accept, with Commissioner Stiles 2nd the motion, with all in favor the addition to the agenda.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Stiles made a motion to accept the Agenda, Commissioner McKinnon 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote, the board approved the Agenda.

IV. Public Forum

There was no Board or public comments or questions.

V. Minutes

January 23, 2020

Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to amend the January 23, 2020 minutes by modifying the approved overtime pay for the Income Maintenance Unit, with Commissioner Stiles seconding the motion, and all in favor of amending the January 23, 2020 meeting minutes.

February 27, 2020

The February 27, 2020 DSS Board meeting minutes were approved. Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to accept, Commissioner Stiles 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the February 27, 2020 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VI. COVID-19 Update

Director McGee discussed the evolvement of the Coronavirus and the how DSS is conducting leadership meetings twice a day to go over protocols. The Department is continuing to make plans for any contingencies and ways to reduce foot traffic in the Department. Director McGee discussed that the Child Welfare Unit and the Adult Protective Services Unit will work from home but continue work duties as usual, with precautions such as personal protective equipment and social distancing being implemented. In addition, staff will utilize tele-conferences as deemed appropriate and in accordance with state guidance.

VII. Director's Report

Director McGee discussed Board member questions in reference to the why the number of children in DSS custody have decreased. Director McGee informed the Board that the decrease of children in DSS custody was due to discharging several children back to their

homes as well as the good social work in the Child Protective services units that prevented children coming into the Department's custody.

The Board also discussed the possibility of increased reports for neglect for children that the schools are having to provide food for.

VIII. Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the statistical report for February, 2020.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 P.M. with Commissioner Dickey making a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Stiles 2nd the motion, and all in favor.