

**Cherokee County Department of Social Services**

**Board of Directors**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 21, 2019**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on May 21, 2019, at 6:34 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

**Present were:**

Gary Westmoreland, Chair

Roy Dickey, Vice Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Member

C.B. McKinnon, Member

Randy Wiggins, County Manager

Candy Anderson, Finance Director

**Staff present were:**

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk

Cindy Palmer, Business Officer

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Modification of Agenda**

There were no modifications made to the agenda.

**IV. Agenda Adoption**

Commissioner Dan Eichenbaum made a motion to accept the Agenda, Commissioner Roy Dickey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda.

**V. Public Forum**

There were no Board or public comments or questions.

**VI. Minutes April 16, 2019**

The April 16, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes were approved, Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to accept, Commissioner Dickey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the April 16, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes.

**VII. Directors Report**

Director McGee provided the Board with the Director's Report. There were no questions or concerns with the Director's Report.

**1. NCFAST Update**

**2. State Child Welfare Consultation and Training**

**3. REAL Training-First Cohort/Group**

**4. Legal Update**

**a. Court Improvement Project**

**b. DSS Court**

**5. Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**VIII. Statistical Report**

Director McGee provided the statistical report for April 2019. DSS currently has five vacancies, one new hire, two interagency transfers, and one resignations.

## **IX. New Business**

### **1. Proposed 2019-2020 Budget**

Director McGee presented the Board with a document regarding the DSS Proposed Budget for 2019-2020. Commissioner Eichenbaum made a motion to accept the Budget, Commissioner Dickey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the 2019-2020 DSS Budget.

### **2. 2019-2020 Memorandum of Understanding Changes**

- a. Director McGee discussed how The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services admittedly does not have the capability to report accurate and validated data related to the outcome measures required in the Memorandum of Understanding. Also, the Cherokee County DSS' request was fulfilled with the removal of threat of corrective action.
- b. Director McGee discussed that the penalties for failure to achieve outcome measures within the state timeframes of three months do not distinguish the difference between outcome measures based on cumulative data and outcome measures based on time period data.
- c. Director McGee discussed that that penalties for failure to achieve outcome measures within the stated timeframes do not take into consideration the deficiencies and problems related to agencies and systems essential to the work of DSS, but external to its operations and control. This is recognized by the division and DSS Agencies can now site these as reasons for non-compliance.
- d. Director McGee discussed that the achievement of benchmarks are correlated with a well-trained and stable staff and the Department of Health and Human Services does not provide training in a location that is easily accessible to Cherokee County

DSS and requires a two hour drive one way and overnight hotel stays for every required position for training program and changes to the training system are projected to take longer than the remaining five months of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. There were no changes at this time. However, the state has provided approval for real simulation training for Cherokee County.

### **3. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M. with Commissioner Roy Dickey making a motion to adjourn, Commissioners Dan Eichenbaum 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all in favor. The next DSS Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on June 18, 2019 at the Department of Social Services.