

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2020

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on June 16, 2020, at 6:37 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, NC 28906.

Present were:

Roy Dickey, Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Dan Eichenbaum, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Director Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M., and Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

II. Modification of Agenda

Director McGee requested to add a closed session to the agenda. Director Eichenbaum made a motion to adopt the agenda as modified, with Director Stiles seconding the motion, and all in favor.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Director Stiles made a motion to adopt the agenda, with Director Westmoreland seconding 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

May 19, 2020

Director Eichenbaum made a motion to accept, Director Westmoreland seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the May 19, 2020 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VI. Director's Report

Director McGee provided the Board with the Director's Report.

A. Audits and Reviews

All Audits and Reviews have been postponed until future notice due to COVID-19.

B. COVID-19 DSS Update

Director McGee discussed how COVID-19 continues to impact the Department's operations. Not only have Medicaid applications increased, but Child Abuse Reports have as well. DSS employees have continued to work duties as usual, with precautions such as personal protective equipment and social distancing being implemented.

C. Grant Award/Trainings

a.) Director McGee discussed the federal/state funds that was awarded to DSS for an Education and Training Program to assist Food and Nutrition recipients with assistance to remove barriers regarding employment. The grant allows DSS to

hire two people, one being housed at the Department and the other person being housed at Tri-County Community College.

b.) Director McGee discussed how the DSS foster care staff and foster parents are participating in the Facing the Challenge Training that is being offered through Duke University. Cherokee County DSS is one of three that is participating in the training.

(c) Director McGee briefly discussed the status and benefits of the REAL Training, the recent legislative bills regarding the recertification of Medicaid, and the impact of motivational interviewing.

D. Court Update

Attorney Duncan briefly updated the Board how COVID-19 continues to impact DSS Court as well as Child Support Court.

VII. Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the Board with the May, 2020 Statistical Report.

VIII. Closed Session

Motion made by Director Eichenbaum and seconded by Director Westmoreland to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (7) to plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct. The closed session was adjourned at 7:30 P.M. on a motion made by Director Westmoreland and seconded by Director Stiles, with all in favor. The open session resumed and with no other business on the agenda.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M. with Director Stiles making a motion to adjourn, Director Westmoreland seconding the motion, and all in favor.

****These minutes were approved by the DSS Board on July 21, 2020****