

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2020

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on July 21, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, NC 28906.

Present were:

Roy Dickey, Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Dan Eichenbaum, Member

CB McKinnon, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Director Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., and Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

II. Modification of Agenda

Director McGee requested to add the Home and Community Care Block Grant after the public forum section of 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 Westmoreland made a motion to adopt the agenda, with Director Eichenbaum 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. Home and Community Care Block Grant

Director McGee discussed how the Home and Community Care Block Grant has been in the budget for years and pays for two in-home aids to serve older adults in homes. These funded positions help monitor adult care home and assist older adults with cooking, cleaning, emotional support, shopping, etc.

VI. Minutes

June 16, 2020

Director Stiles made a motion to accept, Director Westmoreland seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the June 16, 2020 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VII. Director's Report

Director McGee provided the Board with the Director's Report. Director McGee provided the Board with the Child Welfare and Child Support statistics in reference to the Cherokee County Department of Social Services' fiscal year 2019-2020.

A. Court Update

Attorney Duncan briefly updated the Board how COVID-19 continues to impact DSS Court as well as Child Support Court. Attorney Duncan was able to add 16 additional court days to the original court calendar in an effort to continue moving cases to permanency. Attorney Duncan discussed how DSS Court continues to conduct

business via WebEx which is not ideal for hearings due to lack of equipment and poor internet connection in the courtrooms, but Attorney Duncan continues to address as much as possible by consents. Attorney Duncan informed the Board that despite Child Support Court being considered a “low priority” court in regards to other court matters, the child support team has been able to make progress on the establishment cases.

VIII. Statistical Report

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

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 P.M. with Director Stiles making a motion to adjourn, Director Westmoreland seconding the motion, and all in favor.

**** Minutes were approved at the August 24, 2020 Board Meeting****