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CHEROKEE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

4800 West U.S. Highway 64, Murphy, NC 28906

828-837-5527

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**Cherokee County Department of Social Services**

**Board Meeting**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 20, 2024**

1. **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on August 20, 2024, at 5:05 P.M. at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

**Present were:**

Dr. Cathrine Yost

Bo Phillips, Member

James Jallah, Member

Dixie Carter, Member

**Staff present were:**

Amanda T. McGee, Director

Andria Duncan, Attorney

Daunita Maennle, APS Social Work Supervisor

Brandy Clonts, Administrative Officer

1. **Public Forum**

None

1. **Directors Report and DSS Up-Dates**
   1. Longevity Pay – County management reported that longevity pay and other pay plan issues will be discussed during the regular budget planning process. The county will work with all department heads during the budget planning process.
   2. MOU Up-date and Current Measures – Commissioners approved MOU and letter. MOU and letter to be sent by the Clerk to the Commission board.
   3. Legislative Up-date – Representative Clampit supports a bill that would require DSS agencies to monitor alcohol use of certain clients. Rep. Clampit supports the Mothers Against Drunk Driving and they support the bill. DSS directors are concerned and opposed to the recommended mandate. A meeting is being planned to talk to Senator Corbin.
   4. Ryland’s Law includes components to make changes to child welfare in North Carolina, including the implementation of a Single State-Wide Foster Care Specialty plan to serve foster children and their families. The plan eliminates the LME/MCO structure serving foster care children. BCBS was awarded the contract and will handle all medical, mental health and placement services for all DSS foster children. Director McGee expressed grave concern about losing essential services currently provided by Vaya such as the co-located care coordinator. Director McGee will advocate to maintain the position, but if it is eliminated, Director McGee will seek to create a position to handle care coordination. Director McGee will set up meetings with legislators to ensure the western rural counites are included in the planning. Motion to set a meeting with legislators by Dr. Yost, second by Dixie Carter. Motion passed.
   5. There were no Cherokee County child fatalities to report in the last Child Fatalities Team meeting.
2. **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM with Mr. James Jallah making a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Dixie Carter seconding the motion, with all in favor.