

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2022

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on October 18, 2022, at 6:23 P.M. at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Present were:

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Randy Phillips, Member

Cal Stiles, Member

Jan Griggs, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 6:23 P.M., and Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

III. Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the Agenda.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Phillips made a motion, with Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda.

V. Public Forum

There were no Board or public comments.

VI. Approval of Minutes

September 27, 2022 DSS Board Minutes

Mr. Phillips made a motion, with Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the September 27, 2022 DSS Board minutes.

VII. Old Business

1. Medicaid 75/25 Update/Medicaid Expansion/PHE Waiver Roll Off

Director McGee informed the Board that the State's 75/25 federal match codes have resulted in Cherokee County DSS having to itemize everything from the phone bill to the office supplies. Director McGee discussed modifying the indirect plan to 50% and budgeting for such for the next fiscal year.

Director McGee updated the Board of the Medicaid expansion and the PHE Waiver Roll-Off and its impact on Medicaid recipients. At this time, the State has not provided data to prepare for the changes. Director McGee informed the Board that in the event that the roll-off occurs in December, 2022, she intends to request NCDHHS to pay for the additional staff hired to compensate for the influx of people.

2. Mobile Home for Children Update (Electric/Plumbing)

Director McGee informed the Board that the trenches for the water and sewer trench is expected to be completed on 10/19/2022. The Murphy Power Board has been paid for the hook up for electricity. Director McGee also informed the Board that she has contacted several plumbing companies, and due to a backlog in work, the estimates have been delayed.

3. Metal Building for DSS Update (electric, Split Unit, Insulation)

Director McGee provided the Board with an update regarding the progress made regarding the metal building. The insulation is expected to be completed on 10/19/2022 and the Maintenance Department is assisting with the split unit.

VIII. New Business

A. Employee Retention

Director McGee informed the Board that prior to the approval of the 22-23 fiscal year budget, one of the four After Hours CPS position had become vacant and, in order to save funds, it was decided at that time DSS would not fill the position. The 22-23 DSS budget was approved by the BOCC without the fourth position budgeted. Director McGee informed the Board that it has proved very difficult to operate the After-Hours team without the 4th position. Director McGee asked the DSS Board to approve filling the position utilizing lapsed salary dollars which at the time of the meeting were estimated to be approximately 95,000. Director McGee stated that those funds would be utilized for the remaining of the fiscal year to cover the fourth position. McGee stated that the position would likely be a new request in the 23-24 budget. Director McGee stated that the CPS position draws between 50% and 60% reimbursement from the State through the 1571 reimbursement process. Mr. Westmoreland made a motion to accept, with Mr. Phillips seconding the motion, with all in favor.

B. Tele-Work Policy

Director McGee requested the Board to clarify the Tele-Working Policy. The Board discussed the current personnel policy, and stated that they believed that The policy allows the discretion of the supervisors for limited or as needed – case by case tele-work. The DSS Board stated a desire to review the County Policy Manual for verification before making any changes.

C. Employer Satisfaction Survey Results

Director McGee briefly reviewed the results of the Employee Satisfaction Survey with the Board.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M. with Mrs. Griggs making a motion to adjourn, Mr. Phillips seconding the motion, and all in favor.