

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2022

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on November 29, 2022, at 6:34 P.M. at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Present were:

Cal Stiles, Chair

Dan Eichenbaum, Member

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Randy Phillips, Member

Jan Griggs, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 6:34 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

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

V. Public Forum

The Board commended the Guardian ad Litem Program and Appalachian Angels for their help.

VI. Approval of Minutes

October 18, 2022 DSS Board Minutes

Mr. Phillips made a motion, with Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the October 18, 2022 DSS Board minutes.

VII. Old Business

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

Director McGee updated the Board regarding the State's 75/25 federal match codes that have resulted in Cherokee County DSS having to itemize everything from the phone bill to the office supplies.

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 projected Medicaid recipients will increase to 52%.

2. Mobile Home and Storage Building Update

Director McGee informed the Board that the water and sewer is in place. Director McGee provided the Board with a quote of \$4,975 to have the electricity connected from the secondary power pole to the mobile home and the storage building. Director McGee also informed the Board that the mobile home project is approximately \$2,480 over the budget at this time. Director McGee discussed either postponing the mobile home project until the next fiscal year or moving forward with completing the mobile home. The Board expressed that it was best to complete the mobile home at this time.

3. Employee Retention/Court Update

Director McGee informed the Board that a current Income Maintenance SW I is paid \$16 per hour whereas a SW II is paid \$17 per hour. Director McGee discussed that each IMC worker has approximately 500 cases and there is a 15% turnover rate for the IMC

department. Director McGee requested for the Board to consider a pay increase for the IMC social workers. The Board informed Director McGee to address the IMC pay rate at the next budget.

Director McGee informed the Board that the Child Welfare turnover rate has decreased from 80% to 16%. It was discussed that the increase in pay for the Child Welfare Team as well as the After-Hours unit has contributed to the decrease.

Attorney Duncan briefly discussed how well cases are moving in Court. Director McGee informed the Board that the permanency rate for foster children are faster and CCDSS are meeting North Carolina's benchmarks.

4. Tele-Work Clarification

Director McGee informed the Board that she has eliminated all tele-working at DSS.

The Board discussed that they are in the process of creating a new Tele-Working Policy and encouraged Director McGee to work with Randy Wiggins to address any concerns or ideas she may have.

VIII. New Business

A. Cherokee County Interagency Coalition

Director McGee informed the Board that a Cherokee County Interagency Coalition has been formed to discuss and develop innovative solutions to the existing needs within the community, such as housing and mental health services. Director McGee informed the Board that the most recent meeting had approximately 50 attendees and the meetings occur every other month. Director McGee requested access the Commissioners' room at the courthouse to have the meetings. That Mr. Phillips made a motion, with Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, with all in favor for Director McGee to access the Commissioners' room for the Cherokee County Interagency Coalition meetings.

B. Adoption Celebration Month

Director McGee reported that there have been approximately 10 adoptions completed this year.

IX. Special Recognition

Director McGee recognized Mr. Westmoreland for his service as a member of the Cherokee County DSS Board since 2018.

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M. with Mr. Eichenbaum making a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, and all in favor.