

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2022

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on December 20, 2022, at 6:30 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

Jan Griggs, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Mr. Stiles 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

There were no Board or public comments.

VI. Approval of Minutes

November 29, 2022 DSS Board Minutes

The November 29, 2022 Board minutes were deferred to the next Board meeting.

VII. Old Business

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

Director McGee informed the Board that approximately 30% of the population in Cherokee County is receiving Food and Nutrition benefits and she intends to continue monitoring the increase in population. Director McGee stated that DSS plans to absorb the work load without having to hire additional employees.

2. Cottage Update for Children

Mrs. Griggs made a motion to accept the mobile home be named “Cornerstone Cottage of Hope,” with Mr. Stiles seconding the motion, and all in favor.

Director McGee reported to the Board that the employees at the landfill plans to return after the holidays to complete the trench work. Once that is completed, the power will be connected. Director McGee and the Board discussed that the skirting, deck, and ramp will exceed the budget. It was agreed upon by all that those concerns will be addressed at the next DSS Board meeting.

3. Alternate Work Arrangement

Director McGee informed the Board that currently, no one at DSS is on a work from home schedule. However, Director McGee discussed with the Board that there are current circumstances with employees that would be appropriate for teleworking.

Director McGee discussed that not all departments within DSS are able to work from home, but in the event that situations arise and the employee is able to work from home, she would like to have the discretion to allow such. Director McGee stated that some employees’ productivity in one particular department are able to be monitored by their

supervisor in real time. Director McGee discussed her managing DSS tele-working at this time while the County amends their tele-working policy.

VIII. New Business

a. Triple P- Positive Parenting Certification

Director McGee informed the Board that two child welfare workers are now certified to teach the Triple P Parenting classes which is an evidence based program.

b. Recruitment and Retention Initiative

Director McGee informed the Board of the two open supervisor positions that are unable to be filled at this time due to the pay barriers. Director McGee reported that a Child Support Supervisor retired in December, 2022 and proposed moving the monies (\$54,000) from that position to increase the child welfare supervisors' pay to market level. The Board discussed that the request to eliminate the child support supervisor position would require approval from the County Commissioners. Mr. Adams made a motion to pre-approve for Director McGee to move the monies, with Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, and all in favor, contingent on the County Commissioners' approval to eliminate the child support supervisor's position.

c. DSS Board Member Nomination Process

Director McGee informed the Board that the DSS Board should consist of five people and should be individuals that we interact with on an everyday basis. The Board of Commissioners will appoint two people.

IX. Board Report

Director McGee provided the Board with the statistical report.

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 P.M. with Mrs. Griggs making a motion to adjourn, Mr. Eichenbaum seconding the motion, and all in favor.