

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
REGULAR SESSION**

May 12, 2020

The Pitt County Board of Social Services met in Regular Session at 4:00 p.m. on this date in the Eugene James Auditorium located on the second floor of the Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, N.C. The purpose of this meeting was to conduct the official business of the Pitt County Board of Social Services. Board members and Management Team staff present:

Board Members

Members Participating
James Cox, Chair – Remote
Shelia Bunch, Vice Chair - Remote
Catherine Nelson - Remote
Darone Dancy – Remote
Mary Perkins-Williams - Remote

Agency Staff

Members Present
Jan Y. Elliott, Director

County Manager Rep.

Members Present
Brian Barnett

Call to Order

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Chair Cox offered a moment of silent prayer or meditation before the meeting began.

Adopt or Revise the Agenda

Item presented by: Chair Cox

Discussion: The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the Board.

Motion Made: To approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams

Motion seconded by: Catherine Nelson

Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Action on minutes of previous meeting

Item presented by: Chair Cox

Item Description: Minutes of the April meeting

Discussion: Chair Cox asked if there were any revisions to be made to the minutes of the April meeting.

Motion Made: To accept the minutes as presented.

Motion Made by: Catherine Nelson

Motion seconded by: Shelia Bunch

Motion passed: Unanimous

Introduction of New Hires

Ms. Elliott introduced the new hires, Toshi James, Taylor Skeens and Towanda Davis to the Board. The Board welcomed them.

Items for Report

Item Presented: Covid-19 Update

Item Presented by: Jan Elliott, Director

Ms. Elliott went over the power point. Noted the FNS applications have doubled. Of the P-EBT being issued, statewide 65% of the families don't get FNS but they qualify for the P-EBT as their children get free or reduced lunches. The P-EBT card looks different from the regular EBT card. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked if the issued card goes to the parent and is it per child. Ms. Elliott replied that all the eligible children in the household are combined on one card and it will be sent to the head of the household (if it's for a foster child) or to the parent. FNS recipients can now order food online through Walmart or Amazon. There is a service fee if ordering online, which does not come out of the P-FNS amount. It must be paid separately on another credit/debit card. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked if the parent/head of household had to order online or could they still shop at the store. Ms. Elliott stated they could, the online was just another option for those who preferred to maintain social distance. An additional \$265 per eligible child in the month of April is being added to TANF payments. Should be about 300 children in Pitt County. Foster Care homes/facilities will also get additional monies to offset the costs of the schools being out. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked if staff has to see clients and how were we protecting them. Ms. Elliott answered that PPEs, masks, gloves and sanitizers are provided to the staff going out in the field. The receptionists are behind glass. The remaining staff rarely see clients as they can do phone interviews during this time. Ms. Perkins-Williams inquired if they had lines or if they were seen by appointment. Ms. Elliott replied it has not been an issue. There are floor markers to designate where to stand. Chair Cox recognized the staff for their work and dedication.

Item for Decision

Item Presented: Rules of Procedure

Item Presented by: James Cox, Chair

Chair Cox noted it's been discussed and reviewed at a previous meeting, it's time to vote on it. Opened the floor for comments and questions. Ms. Nelson and Ms. Bunch both stated they were good with the document as it had incorporated all of their recommendations.

Motion Made: To approve the Rules of Procedure as presented.

Motion Made by: Catherine Nelson

Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy

Motion passed: Unanimous

Director's Report

Ms. Elliott stated the normal reports were included and the staff are still meeting the requirements. Noted the County has frozen all vacancies at this time, can't advertise, interview or make job offers. Knows there may be some negative results from this due to having fewer staff. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked about staff morale. Ms. Elliott answered it is a stressful time for staff. They are real troopers. She's trying to be as encouraging as possible with daily updates in the beginning to just a couple of times a week now, did get cookies donated from a group as a thank you to our staff. Ms. Perkins-Williams stated her appreciation to Ms. Elliott for all that she has been doing during this difficult time. Ms. Elliott then had a Child Abuse Prevention video played. Thanked PIO for their work on the video stating they did a great job.

Board Member Comments

Chair Cox read a letter from the Board to the staff noting their appreciation for the staff's hard work and dedication.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn

Motion Presented by: Mary Perkins-Williams

Motion Seconded by: Shelia Bunch

Motion passed: Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Y. Elliott
Director

Susan May
Clerk to the Board

James Cox
Chair