

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

**May 14, 2019**

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 Present  
James Cox, Vice Chair  
Mary Perkins-Williams  
Shelia Bunch  
Catherine Nelson

**Agency Staff**

Members Present  
Jan Y. Elliott, Director  
Gwen Burns, Deputy Director  
Bryan Averette, ESS Prog. Admin  
Angela Hart, Business Officer  
Cynthia Ross, SW Prog. Manager  
Michele McCorkle, FSS Prog. Administrator

**County Manager Rep.**

Members Present  
Brian Barnett, Dep. Co. Manager

**Call to Order**

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

**Moment of Silent Prayer**

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

**Public Comments**

Vice Chair Cox opened the floor for public comments. No one had submitted a form or signed in to speak.

**Adopt or Revise the Agenda**

Item presented by: Vice Chair Cox  
Discussion: The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the Board.  
Motion Made: To adopt the agenda as presented.  
Motion Made by: Shelia Bunch  
Motion seconded by: Catherine Nelson  
Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

**Action on minutes of previous meeting**

Item presented by: Vice Chair Cox  
Item Description: Minutes of April meeting  
Discussion: Vice 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: Shelia Bunch  
Motion seconded by: Catherine Nelson  
Motion passed: Unanimous

**Items for Consent**

Item Presented: Coalition for Safer Families Grant 2.7 Million (No County Match)  
Item Presented by: Jan Elliott, Director

Ms. Elliott noted that we had an opportunity to apply for a five year grant of \$2.5 million. Will use this money to work with other community groups/organizations to prevent child abuse and prevent reentry into Foster Care. Ms. Nelson inquired as to when the Agency should hear back on the grant. Ms. Elliott stated the grant was due in June and it would probably about 3 months after that before we hear anything.

Motion Made: To accept the item for consent as presented.  
Motion Made by: Shelia Bunch  
Motion seconded by: Catherine Nelson  
Motion passed: Unanimous

### Items for Discussion

**Item Presented: Great Harvest Bread Non-Profit of the Month for TediBear and DSS**  
**Item Presented by: Gregory Green, Great Harvest Bread owner & Kia Glosson, TediBear**

Ms. Elliott introduced Mr. Gregory Green and Ms. Glosson. Mr. Green stated the Great Harvest Bread bakery was working with TediBear and DSS to raise money in June with "Teddies for Foster" fundraiser. His company does a fundraiser every month to support local organizations. He's going to sell bread in the shape of a Teddy Bear and will give \$4 from each one sold to DSS and TediBear. Will have big media drive starting May 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Elliott thanked Ms. Glosson for getting DSS involved in the fundraiser. Ms. Glosson stated their emphasis is on DSS and want to encourage the community partners to support DSS. Ms. Elliott and Vice Chair Cox thanked Mr. Green for the fundraiser.

**Item Presented: Foster Care and Licensing**  
**Item Presented by: Chandra Mewborn and Rhonda Dawson, SW Supervisors**

Ms. Elliott noted May is Foster Care month. Ms. Dawson highlighted the exciting changes and events over the past year. Thanked the Board for the new unit and staff. Have 207 children in Foster Care but have had 34 children leave Foster Care in 2019. With the new staff, they were able to get the caseloads down to the standard requirement for each social worker. This allows them to be better able to handle issues as they arise. Have had 3 adoptions so far with another 4-6 coming up in the next few months. Only one position vacancy at this time and everyone is trained. Working with court partners, GALS and family attorneys. Ms. Mewborn stated as its Foster Care Month it was time to acknowledge foster children and the foster parents, family members, volunteers, etc. who help the children and youth in Foster Care. Will have 3 of the foster youth on June 12<sup>th</sup> serve as State Representatives on the SAYSO (Strong Able Youth Speaking Out) Board of Directors. SAYSO is an advocacy organization for the youth in Foster Care in NC. This year there will be 10 children in Foster Care graduating. Will recognize Foster Parents on May 18<sup>th</sup> with a picnic event and fun activities in celebration of the service they provide.

### Director's Report

Ms. Elliott stated Medicaid enrollment packages will be mailed out shortly. Have been planning and working on it. The providers are working on their directory. Still working on the Regional set-ups for their LME's. Toolkits will be sent to the Counties to assist them. There will only be 4 PHP's for our region and they all have contracted with different transportation providers. They will start scheduling the February appointments in January as the transition begins. The marketing and outreach is a challenge at this time. Each PHP will issue their own Medicaid card as well and the fee for service Medicaid Card will still be issued by the Department. It is estimated that 25% will self-enroll and the rest will automatically be enrolled. Ms. Nelson asked how the Healthy Opportunities will impact this. Ms. Elliott stated the two programs will work together. Pitt County will be part of Care 360, which is a part of it, and all will come together eventually. Raleigh is not ready to hold the Counties accountable for some of the MOU goals until the beginning of the year, due to the data issues. Some goals will have growth measures. This will also give the Counties time to build up to the expected goals. Will need to redo the signing of the MOU each fiscal year. Continuing to evaluate the data. Went over the Application Processing report, 97% MAD processed timely with the others processed 94% timely. Mr. Cox asked if that would be affected by the transformation. Ms. Elliott said that it should not. She noted that DSS was down to 12 vacancies at this time. Large number have been released to advertise with 3 still frozen. Has been a busy month. She noted that she had gone to the Durham Medicaid Transformation presentation with Commissioner Mary Perkins-Williams. The budget has been presented to the County Commissioners. Had

a wonderful child abuse prevention event with an estimation of almost 1000 people attending. Was wonderful exposure. Working as an Advocate on the Advocacy Committee Board for the Directors Association. There are two bills we are heavily involved in, one related to NC FAST and the other related to fostering of infants.

### **Board Member Comments**

Both Dr. Bunch and Ms. Perkins-Williams commended staff on the Child Abuse event. Ms. Perkins-Williams would like to see a plan for handling the changes that are facing DSS. Mr. Cox echoed those comments as well. Ms. Elliott noted that Ms. Bryan will be coming off the Board in July. Has shared the applications with the Board for that seat and reminded them they will need to recommend one of the applicants by the June meeting. Those who have not sent their evaluation form to Ms. Bryan need to do so as soon as possible.

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

Melonie Bryan  
Chair