

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

June 13, 2023

The Pitt County Board of Social Services met in Regular Session at 4:00 p.m. 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
Catherine Nelson, Chair
Darone Dancy, Vice Chair
Kylene Dibble
Shelia Bunch
Mary Perkins-Williams

Agency Staff

Members Present
Sharon Rochelle, Director
Kandice Franklin, Social Worker Supervisor
Thomas Knight, IMC Supervisor
Bryan Averette, EES Admin
Sonya Scott, Family Services Program Manager

County Manager Rep.

Sam Croom, Deputy County Manager

Call to Order

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

Moment of Silent Prayer

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

Public Comments

There were no public comments to be made during this meeting.

Adopt or Revise the Agenda

Item presented by: Chair Nelson
Discussion: The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the Board.
Motion Made: To approve the agenda
Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion seconded by: Kylene Dibble
Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Action on minutes of previous meeting

Item presented by: Chair Nelson
Item Description: Minutes of the April Board Meetings
Discussion: Chair Nelson asked if there were any revisions to be made to the minutes.
Motion Made: To approve the minutes
Motion Made by: Shelia Bunch
Motion seconded by: Mary Perkins- Williams
Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Recognition of New Hires and Retirees

New Hires: Shaneeca Phillips-Garrett, Lisa Bond, Tekeisha Lee, Briana Watson, Nancy Ray, Joan Weber, Tiffany Price, Sandra Phillips, Jordan Ross and Johnnie McLawhorn

Retirees: Cynthia Ross and Priscilla Pitt

Items to Report

Item Presented: **Adult Services Update**
Item Presented by: **Kandice Franklin, Adult Social Work Supervisor**

Ms. Franklin reported Adult Services currently has six programs, Adult Protective Services, Guardianship, Special Assistance In-Home (SA/IH), In-Home Aide, Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) and Adult Home Specialist (AHS). There are currently six vacancies in the Adult Services unit, three in APS, one in Guardianship, one in CAP/DA and one in AHS.

DSS is currently guardian of 200 adults, with 32 adults pending assessment. State recommends 25 cases per guardianship worker and currently the average is 57 cases per Guardianship worker. In APS, the state recommends workers carry six cases, they are currently averaging 10 cases. With case management, the state recommends nine cases and workers have 20 cases.

During the month of May, APS received 70 reports, 39 met the criteria for Adult Protective Services evaluation and were screened in. 31 reports were evaluated and did not meet the criteria and they were screened out and referred to other agencies for assistance. In Guardianship, they received two new individuals. Special Assistance In-Home waitlist has been dissolved and all the individuals on the waitlist have been assessed.

The adult services division continues to receive technical assistance from the Division of Aging and Adults Services (DAAS), at this time focus is with APS and Guardianship units. SA/IH unit has one final review and they will have met all corrective action goals.

Adult services will hire two temporary staff to help assist the APS unit with evaluations and case management. DSS will be contracting with Phoenix Counseling Center for guardianship of 80 cases which will bring caseload size to more manageable sizes.

June is World Elder Abuse Prevention Month – Adult Service has partnered with Mid East Commission, Pitt County Council on Aging and other community partners for a “Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Event”. World Elder Abuse Prevention Day is June 15, 2023 and the theme is: “See it, Report it, Stop it.”

Item Presented: **Economic Services Update**
Item Presented by: **Thomas Knight, IMC III Supervisor**

Mr. Knight reported LIHWAP ended on May 31st, 2023. There are currently 19 applications that are still pending and will be processed in the month of June. The state is considering issues supplements with the remaining funds. DSS passed the May report card with NC FAST. FNS In-take there are currently no vacancies within the unit, the unit currently has three Vanguard employees to help process applications. FNS Recertification unit currently has 16 employees, two Vanguard temporary employees, zero vacancies and five employees that are in training. Medicaid in-take unit, there are currently four vacancies, two outpost and two positions housed at the agency and currently two employees are still in training. In the Medicaid Redetermination Team, there are currently four vacancies, two in Long -Term Care, one in Family and Children’s Medicaid and one in Adult Medicaid with a total of 27 Medicaid employees.

With Medicaid unwinding, an individual who has been receiving Medicaid throughout the public health emergency, those cases are being reviewed. As, the cases are being reviewed, if they do not qualify based on the regular Medicaid policy, they will be receiving notification of their case being terminated.

Medicaid Expansion, some of the individuals who are terminated with Medicaid Unwinding, likely will be qualified for Medicaid Expansion. There is not an exact date for when Medicaid Expansion eligibility will go into effect but it is expected sometime are the first of the calendar year but, at this time it has not been finalized. It is very important for clients to look at notices they receive and respond/submit the paperwork requested.

Director’s Report – Sharon Rochelle, Director

A plaque was presented to Dr. Shelia Bunch for the time she serviced on the board. Her term ends June 30, 2023.

Board Member Comments

Catherine Nelson – Thank you Dr. Bunch for your service and it’s been wonderful getting to know you better in this capacity. I’m grateful for your guidance and I wish you luck in your second retirement.

Kylene Dibble – Thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach so many socials workers here in Pitt County. I am so grateful that you give me the opportunity and thank you for the opportunity that you’ve shared with me.

Darone Dancy – Dr. Bunch, I’m going to miss looking over and getting that smile.

Mary Perkins-Williams – Dr. Bunch, it has been a pleasure.

Closed Session

Motion Made: For closed session to begin.

Motion Made by: Shelia Bunch

Motion Seconded by: Mary Perkins-Williams

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Meeting Adjournment

Motion Made: To end the June board meeting

Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams

Motion Seconded by: Darone Dancy

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Rochelle
Director

Catherine Nelson
Chair

Ashley Clark

Ashley Clark
Clerk to the Board