

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

June 12, 2022

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
James Cox, Chair
Mary Perkins-Williams
Darone Dancy
Shelia Bunch

Agency Staff

Members Present
Dr. A. Frazer, Interim Director
Sonya Scott, FSS Admin
Tammy Lewis, CW Prog. Admin.
Cynthia Ross, Adult Prog. Manager
Bryan Averette, ESS Admin.
Julia Petrasso, Senior Attorney

County Manager Rep.

Members Present

Call to Order

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted that Catherine Nelson would not be attending the meeting.

Motion Made: To excuse Catherine Nelson's absence.
Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy
Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

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. Chair Cox noted two items (Courts during COVID and Elder Abuse Prevention Month) were being changed in the order they were going to be presented.

Motion Made: To approve the agenda as presented.
Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion seconded by: Shelia Bunch
Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Action on minutes of previous meeting

Item presented by: Chair Cox

Item Description: Minutes of the May Board Meetings and Special Called Meetings

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

Motion Made: To accept the minutes as presented.
Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy
Motion passed: Unanimous

Employee Recognition

Dr. Frazer recognized the new hires by calling them up to introduce themselves. Angella May was recognized as a June retiree.

Items for Consent

Dr. Frazer reviewed the two LIEAP Supplemental Payments budget amendments noting they had come in at different times and were additional monies for those who had already been approved while the program was running. Mr. Averette noted that the CIP was still available for those needed assistance with their cooling needs. Ms. Scott noted GUC Neighbor-to-Neighbor program is only for GUC customers.

Motion Made: To accept the LIEAP budget amendments as presented.
Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy
Motion passed: Unanimous

Dr. Frazer reviewed the GUC Neighbor to Neighbor budget amendment.

Motion Made: To accept the GUC budget amendment as presented.
Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion seconded by: Shelia Bunch
Motion passed: Unanimous

Items to Report

Item Presented: Council on Aging
Item Presented by: Rick Zeck

Mr. Zeck play video. He noted that senior needs are growing. There are now more people over the age of 65, then there were under the age of 18. Council on Aging (COA) is a 501(c)3 organization located on County Home Road. They have four main programs. First program is Nutritional Services (Meals on Wheels). By June 30th, they will have served the largest number of meals to date. They have 6 congregate meal locations in Pitt County. The second program is Aging Services. As of 12/31/21, the average age of people contacting COA was 41 years old. COA only services those over 65 years old. They are using social media to reach those aiding the elderly and are getting lots of referrals that way. Their third program is Medicare Counseling. They provide services assisting those applying for Medicare. Pitt County is the 2nd largest for saving money through Medicare Counseling and the 4th largest County with the largest number of clients assisted. The final program they offer is programming services. COA stayed open during the entire pandemic and have continued to grow. They are working on expanding their existing facility. They need more volunteers as they are feeding over 400 people a day. There are about 100 people on the waiting list.

Item Presented: Courts During COVID
Item Presented by: Julia Petrasso, Senior Attorney

Ms. Petrasso reviewed handouts. She noted the CW issues with the out of compliance cases that have not gone to Court yet. She noted the vacancies are contributing to the challenges. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked if there was an increase in abuse during the pandemic. Ms. Petrasso replied there was an increase in the severity of the abuse and/or fatalities, due to the reduced number of referrals from teachers, bus drivers, etc. She stated there are a lot of barriers that Social Workers have to go through as well as the high caseloads.

Item Presented: Elder Abuse Prevention Month
Item Presented by: Cynthia Ross, Adult Services Program Manager

Ms. Ross reviewed her power point. She requested the community to show their support by wearing purple on June 15th which is Elder Abuse Awareness day.

Item Presented: Strategic Plan
Item Presented by: Dr. Augustine Frazer, Interim Director

Dr. Frazer thanked staff for their hard work. He noted the new strategic plan is comprehensive with a scorecard, which will be use to report to the Board every six months. Chair Cox thanked the staff and Dr. Frazer for the benchmark document.

Interim Director's Report

Mr. Averette briefly reviewed the LIHWP report, noting there was still plenty of money available. He stated applications are available at HSC for pickup and people can apply online as well. Dr. Frazer went over the reports noting on the Medicare Processing report that we had not only met the requirements but had surpassed it as well. He recognized the hard work of the staff. Dr. Frazer briefly reviewed the vacancy report, stating that Susan Boyd would be transferring to another position within Pitt County. He noted that the four-day work week had been kicked off by a meeting with the County Manager last week. Mr. Cox acknowledged Dr. Frazer's creativity regarding dealing with staffing shortages and retention.

Board Member Comments - None.

There being no further business in the regular session, the Board of Social Services was prepared for closed session by Susan Boyd, DSS Clerk to the Board, by reading the North Carolina General Statute regarding closed session to discuss personnel issues.

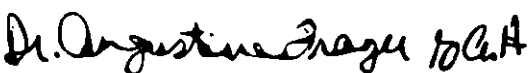
Motion: Motion made to go to closed session.
Motion Presented by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion Seconded by: Shelia Bunch
Motion passed: Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment to closed session.

After returning from Closed Session, motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn
Motion Presented by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion Seconded by: Darone Dancy
Motion passed: Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Augustine Frazer
Interim Director

James Cox
Chair

Susan Boyd
Clerk to the Board