

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

June 9, 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
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: Shelia Bunch

Motion seconded by: Mary Perkins-Williams

Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Action on minutes of previous meeting

Item presented by: Chair Cox

Item Description: Minutes of the May meeting

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

Motion Made: To accept the minutes as presented.

Motion Made by: Mary Perkins-Williams

Motion seconded by: Catherine Nelson

Motion passed: Unanimous

Award Recognition

Ms. Elliott stated the Agency had received ECU's School of Social Work for Outstanding Field Agency Award in May but the presentation had been delayed due to COVID 19. She presented the award to Kecia Adams Council (representing the Child Welfare Division) and Cynthia Ross (representing the Adult Services Division). Chair Cox congratulated the staff.

Items for Discussion

Item Presented: NC Child Data Card
Item Presented by: Jan Elliott, Director

Ms. Elliott noted the report card for State and County was based on several key issues and the data collected was from 2018. Went over the power point presentation. Pitt County has areas to work on based on of the data. Will have to work as a community to impact these numbers. Fifteen percent of adults in Pitt County are without insurance, which impacts the percentage of children without insurance. Mr. Cox asked if the births counted were just Pitt County babies or did the numbers include all the births done at the Vidant, which is a regional Medical Center. Ms. Elliott stated her assumption is the data was based off of the parent's addresses but will confirm it. Mr. Cox asked if there was a State reference number in regards to the data given on child deaths. Ms. Elliott answered the State was 57.4%. Ms. Nelson asked how the juvenile delinquency rate was defined in Pitt County. Ms. Elliott stated it was from the number of youth being referred to or charged by the juvenile court system. Discussion was held about data pulled being based on addresses and County lines. Ms. Elliott stated she would confirm how the data was pulled. Ms. Perkins-Williams initiated a discussion about child mortality and teen pregnancy in Pitt County.

Item Presented: Plan for Return to New Normal
Item Presented by: Jan Elliott, Director

Ms. Elliott noted the Agency did not close during the quarantine. The Federal government has allowed waivers and working remotely during this time to assist with working during this time. Will have Dr. Silvernail review. Main focus is on the HSC lobby, which has higher numbers coming thru it on any given day. Face masks and hand sanitizer stations will be available for staff and clients. Ms. Elliott reviewed the plans and stated will continue to do as much as possible to reduce the number of people coming into the lobby. Discussed barrier options for when clients and staff have to do face to face as well as the use of smart phone applications for remote interviewing. Ms. Elliott noted staff are in the process of developing disinfectant protocols for the visitation rooms and family meetings. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked about requiring clients to wear masks. Ms. Elliott replied the Agency can encourage clients to wear masks and let them know that masks will be available but can't make it a requirement or refuse to see them if they are not wearing a mask and/or are sick. Mr. Cox confirmed that this is an evolving plan.

Director's Report

Ms. Elliott had a video played showing scenes from the Foster Care graduation event that was held that morning. Had eleven graduates, two of which had received \$600 scholarship from funds raised by the staff some years back. Held a boxed lunch event at First Free Will Baptist Church as part of a Foster Parent Celebration in May with some goodies for the foster kids. Currently, have thirty-two foster families. Ms. Perkins-Williams noted that Commissioner Albright had attended the graduation event and commended the staff on the event. Ms. Elliott stated the DSS budget presentation to the County Commissioners was done on June 2nd. County Manager recommended that the IMC Technician position for the Earth Building be approved and stated she had pushed for an additional four positions. The next budget meeting will be on June 16th, so waiting to hear on final budget and approvals. Ms. Elliott announced that Dr. Augustine Frazer will report to work on July 6th as the Deputy Director. Went briefly over this experience and education. Quickly reviewed the reports, noting that the vacancies will stay frozen until after the budget has been approved. Recognized the employees with Service Awards for the first half of the year and noted how they were celebrated during the COVID 19 ban. Adult Services was recognized by the State in all 100 Counties with a video and certificate in honor of National Adult Abuse Awareness month.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Dancy stated his appreciation for how well Ms. Elliott is doing her job. He expressed his interest in going back to the data and looking at it deeper at another meeting. Ms. Perkins-Williams stated her appreciation for what Ms. Elliott does for her staff and the community. Ms. Nelson concurred with the other Board Members statements and is looking forward to working with the new Deputy Director. Chair Cox also concurred with what was said.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn
Motion Presented by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion Seconded by: Jim Cox
Motion passed: Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Y. Elliott
Director

James Cox
Chair

Susan May
Clerk to the Board