

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

July 14, 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

Agency Staff

Members Present
Jan Y. Elliott, Director
Augustine Frazer, Dep. Director
Michele McCorkle, FSS Admin
Bryan Averette, ESS Admin

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: Darone Dancy
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 June 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: Shelia Bunch
Motion seconded by: Catherine Nelson
Motion passed: Unanimous

Selection of Board Chair and Vice Chair

The floor was opened for nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Motion Made: To keep Jim Cox as Chair.
Motion Made By: Shelia Bunch
Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy

Vote Record:
Catherine Nelson Yes
Darone Dancy Yes
Shelia Bunch Yes
Chair Cox Yes

Motion Made: To keep Shelia Bunch as Vice Chair.
Motion Made By: Darone Dancy
Motion seconded by: Jim Cox

Vote Record:
Catherine Nelson Yes
Darone Dancy Yes
Shelia Bunch Yes
Chair Cox Yes

Introduction of New Employee

Ms. Elliott introduced the new Deputy Director, Dr. Augustine Frazer, who started July 6, 2020. She went quickly over his experience. Dr. Frazer did a brief speech thanking everyone for welcoming him and his impression of the community. Chair Cox welcomed him on behalf of the Board.

Recognition of Retiree

Ms. Elliott requested Joy Boykin come forward in order to recognize her on her upcoming retirement and present her retirement gift. Ms. Elliott quickly reviewed her employment history and noted that under Ms. Boykin's leadership they had 29 children adopted this past year.

Ms. Elliott also noted the three employees who received service awards this quarter: Kelli Clay, Deidire Hill and Sheila Farrow.

Items for Action

Item Presented: Energy Outreach Plan
Item Presented by: Bryan Averette, ESS Admin & Michele McCorkle, FSS Admin

Mr. Averette reviewed the 2020-2021 Energy Plan, which includes the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and noted the three different allotment amounts available for households. It will begin December 1st for the priority group and then open to everyone on January 1st. Still developing guidelines for dealing with COVID when LIEAP starts back. Do still have a few community partners willing to assist. Ms. McCorkle went over the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), which is included in the same Energy Plan. She reviewed the CIP outreach plan, noting a maximum of \$600 per family to use throughout the year.

Motion Made: To approve plan as presented.
Motion Made By: Darone Dancy
Motion seconded by: Catherine Nelson

Vote Record:
Catherine Nelson Yes
Darone Dancy Yes
Shelia Bunch Yes
Chair Cox Yes

Item Presented: LINKS Trip
Item Presented by: Jan Elliott, Director

Ms. Elliott went over the request for the LINKS' Christmas trip. The boating company has stated the trip can be cancelled with credit toward a booking the next year. Only the youth actively participating and doing well in school can participate. Ms. Elliott recommended they be allowed to go.

Motion Made: To approve trip as presented.

Motion Made By: Catherine Nelson

Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy

Vote Record:

Catherine Nelson Yes

Darone Dancy Yes

Shelia Bunch Yes

Chair Cox Yes

Item for Discussion

Item Presented: Child Health Data

Item Presented by: Jan Elliott, Director

Ms. Elliott noted Jennifer Hardee with Public Health was present to assist with data and questions. Went over the power point presentation. Safe Care babies who are positive for substances are automatically referred to CC4C and CPS. Have had 171 born that are considered substance abuse affected and 150 screened in for CPS referral and investigation. The data reflects mothers being served and their rates, not the population as a whole. Medicaid does not cover an adult unless there is a pregnancy/child or the person is disabled. Ms. Hardee is the Maternity and Child Health Coordinator. Ms. Hardee stated that if comparisons are done of the infant mortality rates that she traces, the poverty levels and the infant mortality level tend to mirror the data presented. She reviewed the different available prenatal, maternal and infant programs available at Public Health. Pitt County Public Health also offers free cribs with safe sleep class to reduce SIDS rate. Triple P classes are available to educate on how to properly parent children. Dr. Bunch asked if there were any fatherhood programs. Ms. Hardee stated they encourage and work to include the fathers in the programs. Ms. Nelson asked about the funding sources for the programs. Ms. Hardee stated it was a mix of grant funding as well as State, Federal and County funding. Have a large variety of funding sources including the March of Dimes. Chair Cox asked if families can participate in multiple programs. Ms. Hardee replied they can but the programs vary in age limits and income eligibility requirements. Chair Cox inquired how people find out or gain entrance to the programs. Ms. Hardee said they get referrals from DSS and other agencies/organizations plus self-referrals. Dr. Frazer asked if there was any community outreach pre-pregnancy programs. Ms. Hardee answered they did have such programs available.

Director's Report

Ms. Elliott stated the budget was presented to County Commissioners. Revenues are being significantly impacted this year, due to COVID 19. Did get approval for the IM Technician for the Earth Building. It is currently being advertised. It was one of four that were approved for all of Pitt County. Reviewed the other four positions that we had requested. Looking at reclassifying and/or distributing duties to cover needs. Did pass requirement for Medicaid Processing Applications report. Stated one position has been filled since the last meeting. Currently, have 22 positions vacant with 11 advertising plus the new position. Noted there was a food fraud case with PJ's Mart. Had over 200 people doing hot food purchases and credit purchases, which is not allowed. Talking with the referred individuals and, if fraud, will lose FNS benefits for one year.

Board Member Comments

Dr. Bunch welcomed Dr. Frazer. Commended Ms. Elliott and her staff for continuing services during COVID. Thanked the Agency for all they do for the students interning at the Agency. Ms. Nelson welcomed Dr. Frazer. Mr. Dancy welcomed Dr. Frazer and noted his appreciation for Ms. Elliott's and the staff's hard work.

Chair Cox echoed the other Board Members statements.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn
Motion Presented by: Catherine Nelson
Motion Seconded by: Shelia Bunch
Motion passed: Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Y. Elliott
Director

James Cox
Chair

Susan May
Clerk to the Board