

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

August 11, 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
Augustine Frazer, Dep. Director
Michele McCorkle, FSS Admin
Cynthia Ross, SW Prog. Manager

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: Mary Perkins-Williams

Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy

Motion passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Vote Record:

Chair Cox Yes

Shelia Bunch Yes

Darone Dancy Yes

Catherine Nelson Yes

Mary Perkins-Williams Yes

Action on minutes of previous meeting

Item presented by: Chair Cox

Item Description: Minutes of the July 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: Catherine Nelson

Motion seconded by: Darone Dancy

Motion passed: Unanimous

Vote Record:
Chair Cox Yes
Shelia Bunch Yes
Darone Dancy Yes
Catherine Nelson Yes
Mary Perkins-Williams Yes

Item for Discussion

Item Presented: Child Support
Item Presented by: Michele McCorkle, Sonya Scott & Renee Davis-Jones

Ms. Michelle McCorkle stated that August was Child Support Awareness month. Renee Davis-Jones supervises the Enforcement Unit and Sonya Scott supervises the Establishment Unit. Ms. Davis-Jones is the Secretary of the NC Child Support Council. Ms. Scott is the First Vice President of the NC Child Support Council. Ms. Davis-Jones introduced herself and went over the power point part on the Goals and Objectives for Child Support. They have passed 3 of the 5 goals and all of the self-assessment goals. Ms. Scott then went over the Covid 19 part of the power point. Can only schedule 75 cases per court, date which is impacting timely services to clients. This may also affect self-assessment goals in 2021 as well as the incentive money received. Discussion was held as to how to handle certain client questions and who to direct them to. Ms. McCorkle stated ncchildsupport.com is the online portal to apply, make payments and check on cases.

Item Presented: Staff Data
Item Presented by: Dr. Frazer, Deputy Director

Dr. Frazer reviewed the power point presentation. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked about recruiting strategy for men. Dr. Fraser stated going to look at various options and strategies. Don't have separate plan at this time, can only encourage more men to go into the field and apply. Will work with senior staff to share knowledge and train lower level staff. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked Ms. Elliott about having a mentoring plan in place. Ms. Elliott stated they have been doing leadership development course for all the supervisors. Will continue to promote from within as much as they can. The County has leadership classes available as well. Getting supervisors to mentor their staff. Have internal agency committees for career development and on-boarding. Chair Cox noted the number of men at DSS is probably fairly representative of men in social work across the United States. Dr. Bunch noted ECU School of Social Work is working on recruiting more males to the BSW and MSW programs and doing targeted career recruitment.

Item Presented: Continued Discussion Around Child Health
Item Presented by: Chair James Cox

Chair Cox noted it's been a discussion over the past 4 months. Wants to see what the Board wants to do based on the data. Ms. Nelson wants to know how to mitigate the disparities for the pre K and K categories. Ms. Perkins-Williams stated Covid 19 has brought enlightenment on what's happening in society. People are worried about nutrition of the kids. Thinks there will be more nutritional challenges for society to meet. Ms. Elliott suggested creating a time for Ms. Perkins-Williams, Ms. Nelson and others to meet to go ahead and address the food shortage/nutritional issues. Dr. Bunch agrees for the need to seize the opportunity to join with other agencies to assist families dealing with stressors in the systemic social issues. Hold people who provide services accountable for their behavior that contributes to the stressors. Hold elected officials accountable for community issues.

Director's Report

Ms. Elliott reviewed the Medicaid Processing Report, which we continue to pass. Went over the vacancy report with the 24 vacancies and noted two have been filled since the last meeting. County Manager has

allowed us to recruit the older vacancies. Federal Declaration of Emergency has been extended through October 25th. Went over the protective policies and steps for the staff, especially for those who do interviews. Constantly addressing potential exposures with clients but most of the exposures had been from family and friends. Partnering with Dr. Silvernail to handle the staff's Covid issues. Noted that 126 staff took advantage of the emergency leave, due to various reasons. Changing how to conduct meetings and trainings. Also figuring out how Covid 19 impacts sheltering. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked why 24 vacancies and noted may need to look at mental health service issues at the next meeting. Miss Elliott stated had already been recruiting when freeze occurred. Some of the positions were from the prior year but have made offer on a few already. Working with staff to develop plans on how to support school needs and balance workload. Did a staff survey regarding school needs. Going over the results with management team meeting tomorrow.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Dancy stated that he applauds the Agency's efforts for career growth. Offered to share his expertise with Ms. Elliott. Dr. Bunch commended Dr. Frazer for still being here. Commended Ms. Elliott on a job well done. Ms. Perkins-Williams stated blessings and prayers for staff meeting with clients every day and being such troopers meeting their quotas and goals. Ms. Nelson stated she was excited about the work being done and is curious to know if they are seeing better outcomes or increased efficiency with technology usage increase. Chair Cox thanked Ms. Elliott and staff.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn
Motion Presented by: Mary Perkins- Williams
Motion Seconded by: Catherine Nelson
Motion passed: Motion passed unanimously

Vote Record:
Chair Cox Yes
Shelia Bunch Yes
Darone Dancy Yes
Catherine Nelson Yes
Mary Perkins-Williams Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Y. Elliott
Director

James Cox
Chair

Susan May
Clerk to the Board