

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

**August 8, 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  
Darone Dancy, Chair  
Catherine Nelson, Vice Chair  
Kylene Dibble

**Agency Staff**

Members Present  
Sharon Rochelle, Director  
Bryan Averette, EES Admin

**County Manager Rep.**

Sam Croom, Deputy County Manager

**Call to Order**

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

**Moment of Silent Prayer**

Chair Dancy 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 Dancy  
Discussion: The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the Board.  
Motion Made: To approve the agenda  
Motion Made by: Catherine Nelson  
Motion Seconded By: Kylene Dibble  
Motion Passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

**Action on minutes of previous meeting**

Item presented by: Chair Dancy  
Item Description: Minutes of the July Board Meeting  
Discussion: Chair Dancy asked if there were any revisions to be made to the minutes.  
Motion Made: To approve the minutes  
Motion Made by: Kylene Dibble  
Motion Seconded By: Catherine Nelson  
Motion Passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

**Recognition of New Hires and Retirees**

New Hires: Heather Watts, Soleesa Morgan, Kira Lyles, Sade Sharpe, Sheena Harrell  
Retirees: Margaretta Howard

## Items to Report

**Item Presented:** Economic Services Update  
**Item Presented by:** Margaretta Howard, Redetermination IMC III Supervisor

Ms. Howard reported on the Medicaid Unwinding process and what it means for Pitt County. Pitt County DSS has seen an increase of 26,000 Medicaid receipts from July 2014 to July 2023. DSS currently has 27 employees that will have to review 56,000 Medicaid recipients' cases by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Averette reported on the Medicaid Expansion process and the impact it will have on Pitt County. There are three potential starts dates contingent on the North Carolina State budget. During the 1<sup>st</sup> year of implementation an additional 10,025 beneficiaries, 2<sup>nd</sup> year an additional 2,841, with cases being reviewed every 12 months. 10 IMC II's and two IMC Supervisor II's will be needed in Intake. In Redetermination unit, 20 IMC II's and three IMC Supervisor II's will be needed.

Pitt County DSS has received \$643,215.77 (May 2023 and September 2024) to be used for Medicaid Unwinding and Expansion. When Medicaid Expansion is implemented DSS will receive \$31,839.70 plus 50% or 75% federal share depending on the program area.

Medicaid Expansion lifts the disability requirement and increases income limit for the Medicaid.

**Item Presented:** Board Member Search  
**Item Presented by:** Ashley Clark, Clerk – Social Services Board

Ms. Clark reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> posting for the vacant board seat closed on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Social Services Commission will meet in September and Gwendolyn Waller will send the information if the new member has been approved.

**Item Presented:** Vacancy Update  
**Item Presented by:** Inez Black, Business Officer

Ms. Black reported at the beginning of the fiscal year, DSS had 46 vacancies. As of August 4<sup>th</sup>, DSS currently has 40 vacancies. There are currently 10 vacancies in Economic Services, 17 vacancies in Child Welfare, four vacancies in Family Support and 10 vacancies in Adult Services.

## Director's Report – Sharon Rochelle, Director

Ms. Rochelle reported the Deputy Director Nikki Mears will be starting on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Social Services Institute was held August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rochelle spent time with Workforce Development at the Social Services Institute and learned the Child Welfare education collaborative will be reinstated in Fall 2024. The Social Services Institute also mentioned the use of Social Media ads to bring in new applicants for job vacancies. The State of North Carolina is implementing a standardized child welfare and information system, all 100 counties will use the same program. Pitt County is expected to join in the first quarter of 2024.

## Meeting Adjournment

Motion Made: To end the August board meeting  
Motion Made by: Catherine Nelson  
Motion Seconded by: Kylene Dibble  
Motion Passed: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Rochelle  
Director

Darone Dancy  
Chair

*Ashley Clark*

Ashley Clark  
Clerk to the Board