

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

September 8, 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
Catherine Nelson - Remote
Darone Dancy – Remote
Mary Perkins-Williams - Remote

Agency Staff

Members Present
Jan Y. Elliott, Director
Augustine Frazer, Dep. Director
Tammy Lewis, SW Prog. 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.

Roll Call:

Chair Cox Present	Shelia Bunch Present
Darone Dancy Present	Catherine Nelson Present
Mary Perkins-Williams Present	

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: Catherine Nelson

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 August 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: Shelia Bunch

Motion passed: Unanimous

Vote Record:

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

Swearing in of New Board Member

Susan May, Clerk to the Board, swore in Dr. Shelia Bunch, who was reappointed.

Introduction of New Hires

Ms. Elliott introduced the five new hires since the last Board Meeting: William Brown, Dannata Moore, Shavonne Brown, Justice Rohloff, Marilyn Andrade and Shaquanna Williams.

Items for Consent

Chair Cox asked if there were any questions regarding the three consent items. There were no questions.

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

Vote Record:

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

Items for Report

Item Presented: Cooperative Ext. Programs

Item Presented by: Leigh Guth, Director

Ms. Guth stated the Cooperative Extension is a joint program between Pitt County, NC State University and NC A&T State University. Teach scientific research based best methods for food and farming. Train farmers for higher yield and healthier crops. Offer programs on healthy eating, nutrition, cooking, food safety and preservation. Pitt County awarded All American County based on the three programs presented on: Reentry Program at the Detention Center, Community Paramedic Program at the Community College and the Pitt County Farm and Food Council thru the Cooperative Extension. They have implemented a program to accept EBT at the Farmer's Market. Started a mid-week Farmer's Market over at Government Circle for clients and staff to have access to. The vendors there will accept WIC vouchers as well. Also have the Pitt Fit Community Garden out on County Home Road. Have a gardening program at Wintergreen Elementary School. Teaching Day Care Centers on how to have gardens for the students, let them work in the garden as well as eating the produce. North Carolina has a high percentage of food insecure children, so developed application for smart phones to locate local food resources such as food pantries, farmers markets, etc. The Pitt County Farm and Food Council is a network of people from across Pitt County and various food systems. Ms. Perkins-Williams thanked her for working with the youth to learn about gardening.

Item Presented: Bready Bear/Holiday Cheer

Item Presented by: Chandra Mewborn, SW Supervisor II, Michael Hickman, Jennifer Teague

Ms. Mewborn stated they were doing the Bready Bear fundraiser again. Kickoff is Friday, September 11th, at Great Harvest Bread. For each \$12 bready bear sold, \$4 will go to a fund for the children in Foster Care. The Holiday Cheer program is starting to make plans for the Foster Care children. There are currently 208 youth in Foster Care. She introduced Michael Hickman of Cryo 252 (located in Uptown Greenville). Mr.

Hickman stated his business will be offering an incentive to clients to donate to the Holiday Cheer program. Ms. Mewborn then introduced Jennifer Teague of Bridge Foster Ministry. She stated it's a new ministry that was started back in the winter. The goal is to donate age appropriate backpacks (with comfort and toiletry items included) to DSS for children when they are removed from a home and as often they cannot take anything with them. They are divided into four age groups: 0-4, 5-8, 9-12 and 13-18. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked if Mr. Hickman was a new community partner. Ms. Mewborn stated he was along with Ms. Teague.

Director's Report

Ms. Elliott reviewed the Medicaid Processing Report. Stated the dip was from some applications that had been overlooked and noted that it won't happen again. She went over the vacancy report. Chair Cox asked if having any problems with getting enough applicants. Ms. Elliott stated it depended upon the area that the vacancy was in as to the number of applicants. Have recently started running the ads for 2 weeks. Ms. Elliott stated Healthy Helpings is a short term program that's a partnership between Food Lion and the State Division of Social Services. It partners the MVP card with the EBT card for an extra \$40 for fresh produce for 3 months. Started in Pitt County on 9/2/2020 and already has 57 households enrolled. Ms. Perkins-Williams asked if the County was going to lose the utility programs. Ms. Elliott replied that DSS still has the CIP and LIEAP programs to assist with utility needs. Ms. Elliott reviewed the Director's work plan. There were no comments or questions from the DSS Board. Ms. Elliott noted they will go before the County Commissioners to get permission to apply for a COVID grant to use to assist the community. Will need to do two public hearings prior to applying, so will have to move quickly if approved by the County Commissioners. The eviction process is still on hold per the CDC until Dec. 31st if the income criteria is met. Dr. Bunch asked what the grant deadline is. Ms. Elliott answered there was no deadline, just couldn't apply until after September 1st. They are accepting applications until the money is gone. It is a three year grant.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Nelson commented that she is really proud of the community partnerships. Ms. Perkins-Williams and Mr. Dancy agreed with Ms. Nelson's comments. Dr. Bunch commended Ms. Elliott and her management team for facilitating personnel, work and new resources and echoed the statements about the community partnerships. Chair Cox also agreed with the previous comments and thanked Ms. Guth for her work as well.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn
Motion Presented by: Shelia Bunch
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