

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

September 19, 2023

The Pitt County Board of Social Services met in Regular Session at 3:00 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
Mary Perkins-Williams

Agency Staff

Members Present
Sharon Rochelle, Director
Bryan Averette, EES Admin
Sonya Scott, Family Services Admin

County Manager Rep.

Call to Order

Chair Dancy called the meeting to order at 3:00 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: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion Seconded By: Catherine Nelson
Motion Passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Action on minutes of previous meeting

Item presented by: Chair Dancy
Item Description: Minutes of the August 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: Catherine Nelson
Motion Seconded By: Kylene Dibble
Motion Passed: The motion was passed unanimously.

Recognition of New Hires and Retirees

New Hires: Shameka Mitchell, Victoria "Ashley" Phelps, Olivia Contreras, Dontisha Smith, Nikki Mears and Stacy Keech

Items to Report

Item Presented: Economic Services Update
Item Presented by: Bryan Averette, EES Administrator

Mr. Averette reported on the application on FNS and Medicaid program. In the FNS program timeliness is 95%. In July the timeliness for regular applications and in August expedited was met. With expedited applications, a decision has to be made by day four. With Medicaid applications, the state timeliness stand is 90%. During August, the timeliness was met for MAD and other. There are 16-in house caseworkers that process Family & Children and Adult Medicaid. There are four positions that are outposted at ECU School of Medicine and ECU Health. There is currently one vacancy in Outpost and two in-house vacancy, one in Family and Children and the other in Adult.

Medicaid Expansion will provide access to full Medicaid coverage to approximately 12,866 individuals in Pitt County in the first two years. Income limits for full Medicaid coverage is being raised to 133% from 100% of the federal poverty level. One-half of Medicaid beneficiaries in year one would convert to fully Medicaid electronically. Currently, the monthly average of Medicaid applications is 457, the projected number of applications is 875 per month with Medicaid Expansion.

An initial request has been sent to the County Manager for 10 IMC IIs and two IM Supervisor IIs to the begin the process of onboarding and training process the influx of applications. Additionally, fund has been advanced by the State to Pitt County for Medicaid Unwinding and Expansion for FY 23/24 is \$ 643,215.77. Once, Medicaid Expansion has been implemented Pitt County DSS will received \$31,829.70 plus 50% or 75% federal share depending on the program.

Deputy Director's Report – Nikki Mears, Deputy Director

Ms. Mears introduced herself to the board and gave a brief background on past experience. Ms. Mears noted that at Pitt County DSS, we have team of very hard and dedicated staff, that go above and beyond time and time again. The areas that need support are with Staffing, there are significant vacancies across multiple program areas. But all counties are experiencing staffing concerns.

Director's Report – Sharon Rochelle, Director

Ms. Rochelle reported at the end of September, she and Nikki will be attending the Personnel and Professional Development training in Pinehurst. There will be workshops on balancing the rights within the workplace, EEOC, media public relations and creating great workplaces. DSS will have a booth at the Pitt County Fair on September 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. DSS will have employees from different departments with people that have questions or questions with applications.

Closed Session

After returning from Closed Session, a motion was then made to adjourn

Meeting Adjournment

Motion Made: To end the August board meeting
Motion Made by: Kylene Dibble
Motion Seconded by: Mary Perkins-Williams
Motion Passed: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Rochelle
Director

Darone Dancy
Chair

Ashley Clark

Ashley Clark
Clerk to the Board