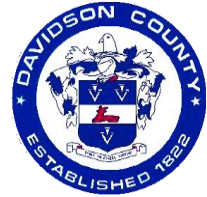


**DAVIDSON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Patricia Baker, Director



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**Davidson County Department of Social Services
Board Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2020**

Board Members Present via Video Conference
Mrs. Karen Watford; Ms. Jane Murphy; Mr. Todd Yates

Others in Attendance via Video Conference
**Ms. Trish Baker; Mr. Scott Craver; Ms. Susan Craig; Ms. Katrina McMasters;
Mrs. Susan Bryan; Ms. Elizabeth Huff; Ms. Sheri Woodyard; Mrs. Lexa Eagle; Mr. Casey Smith**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Mrs. Karen Watford. Ms. Jane Murphy made a motion to excuse Mrs. Minnie Dukes from tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karen Watford. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review of the Agenda – Additions/Modifications

No changes to the Agenda.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Murphy made a motion to approve the Agenda for the meeting. Mr. Todd Yates seconded the motion. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Todd Yates made a motion to approve the regular session minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting. Ms. Jane Murphy seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Board Member Comments

Mrs. Karen Watford expressed her appreciation to Ms. Trish Baker and Mr. Casey Smith regarding the work they are doing with Cardinal Innovations. We will continue to be in discussion with Cardinal to get our issues heard and addressed. The issues will take some time to rectify, but we are working toward that goal. Mr. Yates expressed his appreciation as well.

Management Report – Submitted in Writing

Mrs. Susan Bryan stated that the financial report is based on figures from the prior month and we are still looking good. She asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Baker asked if there were any questions regarding the remainder of the Management reports. There were none.

Old Business

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Program - Update

Ms. Baker shared that we have spent \$52,500.00. We have approved 105 applications out of the 421 applications received. We are winding down this program as these moneys need to be expended by December 31, 2020. The remainder of the moneys will be returned to the County to address other needs.

New Business

Record Destruction

The request to dispose of 72 Foster Care files was presented for approval. Mr. Todd Yates made a motion to approve the destruction of the records that have been identified. Ms. Jane Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Cardinal Innovations Discussion

Ms. Baker shared with the Board that a meeting was held with our staff to review the action plan sent from Cardinal Innovations. That plan was shared via email with the Board today. The DSS group began the process of responding to the proposed plan in that meeting. The action plan was discussed with the Board. Mr. Casey Smith has been very active in reviewing this plan and getting resolution to the issues. He set up a meeting with Rep. Larry Potts to discuss issues regarding Cardinal, to review the action plan and the DSS' response. The plan fails to address the problem of network capacity and appropriate and timely access to care. We have had nothing but support from our State representatives and County Management. Ms. Baker shared the multiple steps that have been taken and all the avenues that have been pursued to try to resolve the issues with Cardinal Innovations. Many, if not all counties in the catchment area are having similar issues. Mr. Smith shared information from two calls that were held with other counties involved with Cardinal. Casey shared some of the details from these calls. Appropriate and timely placements were the demand made of Cardinal Innovations. There are statewide issues with having enough providers and enough beds for children with leveled placement requirements. Our County has been watching this problem from behind the scenes and is very well aware of the issues. We want appropriate services for our children. There was lengthy discussion about time frames in the action plan which appear to be long term. There was also discussion about payment from Cardinal for issues when children are not placed in the appropriate care in a timely manner. Lots of information was shared regarding what we expect from Cardinal. Questions about the Plan of Action were asked and answered. Further conversations are scheduled with other counties to compare where each county is now. Mr. Smith will keep the DSS Board up to date as things happen. Trey Sutton is scheduled to come to speak with the BOCC in person to give updates. The response that was sent to Cardinal will be provided to the Board. Cardinal will try to make contact with providers who have said they will never contract with Cardinal.

Court Updates – Sheri Woodyard

Ms. Sheri Woodyard reported that Court is not better at the moment due to loss of days due to holidays and for the Clerk of Court Office to move to their new offices. We only have three court dates in December and are trying to make up for the lost days in October and November. We have lost three weeks of court in the past six weeks. The pandemic is causing problems with visitation that is being created by facilities and this may require court action. Courts may be impacted again if the number of COVID cases continue to rise.

Director Updates

The Memorandum of Understanding with the State was scheduled to be on the BOCC agenda tonight. Signing for this MOU has to be completed by the end of December.

We had an Appreciation lunch for staff on Friday, November 20, 2020.

We will be having our Holiday Luncheon and December DSS Board meeting on December 11, 2020. Invitations should have been received by all Board members.

We had a very successful Fiscal audit. There were no findings. Ms. Baker thanked fiscal staff for a job well done. Our Agency has had several audits and have done well on all of them. Our Agency is doing very well and Ms. Baker thanked all staff for their hard work.

Ms. Baker is very thankful for the support she has received from the Board and all those involved. There was discussion about how the next meeting and the meal will be handled.

Today is Susan Craig's last DSS Board meeting with us. She is retiring effective the end of November. Mrs. Craig's commitment to Davidson County and the Services area is quite notable. Ms. Baker thanked her for her service and knowledge. The Board congratulated her on her upcoming retirement.

Ms. Jane Murphy made a motion to move the meeting into closed session at 4:47 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Todd Yates. The motion was unanimously approved.

Closed Session

No Action was taken during Closed Session. The meeting returned to Open Session.

Date of Next Meeting

The next DSS Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2020 at 11:00 am at the Governmental Center, fourth floor, Commissioners Meeting Room, Lexington, North Carolina.

Adjournment

The meeting returned to Open Session at 5:01 pm.

Ms. Jane Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Todd Yates. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Baker