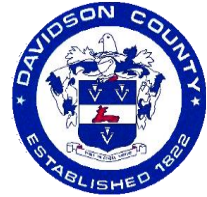


**DAVIDSON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Patricia Baker, Director



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**Davidson County Department of Social Services
Board Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2021**

Board Members Present via Video Conference and in Person

**Mrs. Karen Watford; Mrs. Minnie Dukes; Mr. Todd Yates
Ms. Jane Murphy; Mr. Ed Dawson**

Others Present and via Video Conference

**Ms. Trish Baker; Mrs. Susan Bryan; Ms. Elizabeth Huff; Ms. Katrina McMasters; Mr. Scott Craver;
Mrs. Lexa Eagle; Ms. Sheri Woodyard; Mr. Jason Hicks; Mr. Tony Dill; Mr. Casey Smith**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Mrs. Karen Watford.

Review of the Agenda – Additions/Modifications

There were no additions or modifications to the Agenda.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from regular meeting held on March 23, 2021 were reviewed. Mr. Ed Dawson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mrs. Minnie Dukes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Board Member Comments

There were no Board comments.

Management Reports

All Management reports were submitted in writing.

Mrs. Susan Bryan shared the monthly management report regarding overtime being over budget but we are under in salaries. Food and Nutrition Services is higher, which is related to higher caseloads since the start of the pandemic. The capped expenditures will not go over 100 percent.

Ms. Trish Baker shared with the Board that we are still actively recruiting. One new hire left after one day of work. One employee left after one month and one employee left after 3 months. Pay and benefits were the reason for the employee who had been here a month to leave and smaller caseloads and small home town feel were the reason for the three-month employee to leave. Both are going back to the counties they initially came from. CPS jobs are extremely hard and the pay does not seem to compensate for the work. We are still recruiting for all open positions, with the exception of four that will be reclassified in the new budget year. Some benefits cited by recent departures: Davie County offers a wellness clinic and it is free. Randolph County had clinics with low co-pays and no or low-cost prescriptions. There was discussion about the possibility of offering incentives to help get staff to come and to stay. Trish will try to look at what other counties are doing as incentives.

There was discussion about what things could be changed to help the burden that has been placed on the worker. State mandates are somewhat cumbersome, but we must follow these mandates in order to meet the requirements of the State. There is ongoing discussion regarding how to eliminate some of the stress. There was lengthy discussion about how and why CPS caseloads are handled the way they are being handled. The DSS Board asked that problems continue to be shared to make it possible for them to advocate with State representatives on ways to help with these issues. Ms. Baker and Ms. Katrina McMasters will talk about things that could possibly help this situation.

All other reports were read.

Old Business

Playground Installation

The equipment has been installed and we are waiting on a platform to install the picnic table and we are also waiting on the fencing. Ms. Baker will also be going back to facilities committee to get the whole area designated as a play area for the kids.

New Business

Request to Purge Records

328 files have been identified for the purpose of being purged; 187 CPS files (closed in Fiscal Year 2010 or before); 26 Home Study files (case closed in 2010 or before); and 115 APS files (closed in 2010 or before). Ms. Baker asked that the Board consider a motion to approve the destruction of these files.

Mr. Todd Yates made a motion to approve the destruction of the aforementioned files. Ms. Jane Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Court Updates – Sheri Woodyard

The Legal team is still making progress. Ms. Woodyard is glad to have Mr. Jason Hicks on board and helping. The courts are still waiting for the Governor to appoint two new judges. The Attorney General's office has started the interview process.

Director/Department Updates

Board Member Training – August 5-6, 2021 – Online – 9:30 to 12 Noon (both days)

Social Service Institute training has not been held for several years and will not happen again in 2021. The School of Government has developed a virtual training for new and existing DSS Board members. They will be offering training on August 5th and 6th 2021, from 9:30 to 12 both days. We can also buy a recorded version. Board Members should let Trish know if they want to register and attend or if they want just the recorded version.

Data Breach

Ms. Baker reported that We had a situation that resulted in a data breach. An on-call employee had her laptop in car overnight and the car was broken into and the laptop and bag were stolen. There were CPS reports in the bag. An incident report was made to the State. We also notified 28 individuals that their personal information may have been breached. Anyone that may have been impacted was notified. We also submitted this information to the State DHHS and the Attorney General's office. The State DHHS has now closed this investigation as we have met all requirements. We are not aware of anyone that may have contacted the State or us about the breach. We have met all requirements to let all involved know about the breach. There were many involved in this process, including Attorney Hicks, and we have handled it appropriately.

Cardinal Innovation Update

The Foster Care Funding agreement from Cardinal Innovations was shared via email. The purpose of the agreement is for payment for foster children. Cardinal proposes to pay the county for the duration of 7-1-2020 thru 7-1-2022. The payment seems to be available for a broad range of things, including foster parent education and training. We cannot use the money on a service that was denied, such as Cardinal denying a leveled placement, but we could use the money to hold a bed for a child. We would be responsible for locating the bed, not Cardinal. The discussion regarding the Foster Care Funding agreement was initially begun in December. Ms. Baker reviewed the agreement with the Board. There are reporting requirements to be provided to Cardinal as to how the money received has been spent.

Because of the continued issues with Cardinal and Davidson County residents not receiving appropriate and timely treatment, especially our foster kids, we are requesting that the DSS Board send a request to our County Board of Commissioners to disengage from Cardinal as a LME/MCO. Ms. Baker states that she knows that no LME/MCO is perfect; however, she is willing to interview and consider other LME/MCO's. Children's lives are involved in this and they deserve to be served appropriately. Mrs. Karen Watford indicated that she has spoken with Rep. Larry Potts. Rep. Potts met with Trey Suttan and let him know that things have to change. This has been an ongoing problem with Cardinal for many years. Cabarrus and Union counties have already been given the green light to disengage from Cardinal. The process of how this would take place was discussed. The disengagement process could take upwards to a year. Medicaid transformation could

have an impact on disengagement. We have had many meetings and many promises and things today are no better. The discussion has led to a request for support from the Board to disengagement from Cardinal.

Mr. Ed Dawson asked Mr. Scott Craver his feelings about Cardinal because he is on the Cardinal Board. Mr. Craver stated he has asked Cardinal to deal with the current situations effectively and efficiently and any that may come up in the future. The kids are falling through the cracks.

Mr. Ed Dawson made a motion to ask the BOCC to move forward with the steps to disengage from Cardinal Innovations. Mrs. Minnie Dukes seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Date of Next Meeting

The next DSS Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 4:00 pm at the Governmental Center, fourth floor, Commissioners Meeting Room, Lexington, North Carolina.

Ms. Jane Murphy made a motion to move the meeting into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Minnie Dukes. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting moved into closed session at 5:15 pm.

Closed Session

No Action was taken during Closed Session. Mr. Todd Yates made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Ed Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting returned to open session at 5:37 pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Ed Dawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jane Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Baker