Chatham County Board of Social Services
Meeting Minute
December 19, 2018

In Attendance: Richard Edwards, Chair; Thomas Droke, Vice Chair; Valerie Broadway, Member; Jennie Kristiansen, Director and Nancy Burgess, Executive Assistant.

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

Thomas Droke motioned to approve the minutes for the November meeting with a second motion from Valerie Broadway.

Items of Discussion

Review of the data dashboard
DCDEE (Division of Child Development and Early Education) reported that the number of children served on subsidy was inaccurate for counties. This number was not included in the report for the month.

Economic Services
The Request for Proposal for Pre-paid Health Plans (PHP) for Medicaid Transformation closed and contracts were scheduled to be awarded in early February. Beneficiaries will be expecting their first notice regarding the changes by June.

Upcoming Medicaid audits will be taking place. The first will be the federal PERM (Payment Error Rate Measurement) audit to be conducted by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The PERM program will measure improper payments in both the Medicaid and Healthchoice programs. Between six hundred and nine hundred cases statewide will be pulled with NC reviewed every three years. NC should be provided with the case listing soon.

The Division of Health Benefits (formerly the Division of Medical Assistance) will be working on developing a plan to conduct audits on all 100 counties that were a part of the state’s Medicaid Eligibility Determination Plan. The plan will be a joint effort with the Office of State Auditor. Each county will have two hundred cases reviewed (regardless of the size of the county). The audit will look at three accuracy standards: ineligible Medicaid recipients who were approved for benefits, eligible individuals who did not receive Medicaid benefits, and internal controls that did not affect eligibility. The audit is scheduled to begin in January of 2019. Counties will be reviewed every three years, however, counties affected by the hurricane will be reviewed in year two or year three. The audits will be performed by a contractor.
Family Services

NC indicated to the Administration for Children and Families that it will delay implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) until 2021. The new federal legislation will allow for IV-E funds to be used in new ways including prevention, substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment for children and families. With greater flexibility will also come more restrictions on congregate care (e.g. time limitations on length of time IV-E funds can be used for congregate care). States were given an option to begin spending these funds as early as 2019, however, states can request a delay until October 2021. DHHS is studying how FFPSA and Rylan’s Law/HB 630 will be implemented and is planning to utilize an outside vendor to assist with implementation.

NC made some significant improvements in performance on the child welfare record reviews (called the On Site Review Instrument or OSRI) and is currently meeting many of the Program Improvement Plan goals that are federally required. It is anticipated that NC will be given an extension until June to meet all of the requirements. The area that needed the most work was in the area of Permanency for children in foster care. NC still needs to show improvement in the areas of placement stability and achieving timely permanence. For both of these areas a 2% improvement will be required to meet the growth goal. Every county has record reviews that contributed to these results. There were 10 counties, however, that were trained to conduct these reviews on a more intensive level so most of the case record reviews were from these 10 counties. Much of the child welfare reform that is underway currently in NC was the result of NC’s poor performance on the federal review, so the improvements were a positive sign.

Budget Heads Up Meeting

Ms. Kristiansen attended the budget meeting regarding the “Heads Up” document provided by DSS. Medicaid Transformation and new positions for emergency assistance (1 total) and child welfare (2 total) were proposed. The meeting went well with no outstanding issues addressed.

Closed Session

Mr. Droke motioned to enter closed session to discuss a personnel issue with a second motion from Ms. Broadway.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 16th at 3:00pm in the DSS Board Conference Room. There will be a presentation from Christine Esezobor who is the LINKS Coordinator for the agency.

Chair

Secretary

Date 2/20/19

Date 2/21/19