Chatham County Board of Social Services
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2019

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

Richard Edwards called the meeting to order.

Thomas Droke motioned to approve the August minutes with a second motion from Emily Lowrance; all in favor.

Items of Discussion:

The board reviewed the Monthly Data Snapshot.

Economic Services:

Without a budget approval, Medicaid transformation was moved to February 1st. The whole state will “go live” on the same date, instead of being implemented in two phases. This allows for additional time for provider enrollment which will be of benefit. The representative from Maximus, the Enrollment Broker, is scheduled to remain at CCDSS until the end of October. Debra Farrington, from the Division of Health Benefits, came to Chatham County for a listening session in late August. She provided Medicaid updates and answered questions about Medicaid transformation.

Food and Nutrition Services benefits were issued early across the state due to impacts of Hurricane Dorian. For some beneficiaries whose benefits are issued later in the month, they will also receive an early issuance for October. This information was shared both locally and by DHHS.

Childcare subsidy spending coefficient is 106%. This means that even when a state budget is approved, children will not be able to be moved from the waitlist.

Family Services:

The In-Home Aide Certification monitoring took place on the week of September 16th in Adult Services. Every three years, the program must be recertified by Division of Aging and Adult Services. The monitoring included client interviews, review of dictation, and training and competency assessments for the in-home aides.
The National Child Welfare Worker event was held the week of September 9th. Locally, the child welfare units gathered for ice cream and brownies and watched the national webcast. Orange and Chatham Counties are meeting quarterly for Permanency Collaborative Meetings to improve timeliness to permanency for children in foster care. The most recent meeting was held the week of September 16th. For FY 19-20, both counties will be conducting exit interviews with supervisors for children exiting foster care, using a standardized data collection tool. This will provide more qualitative data regarding barriers to more timely permanence and will be shared with the Collaborative.

Initiation timeliness for August was 70% with seven late initiations. All late initiations were due to children or parents being out of town or unable to be located. One case was late due to accommodating a mother’s work schedule.

Agency Updates:

The final visit for the FY 18-19 Single County Audit was held the week of September 16th.

With no further items to discuss there was a motion to adjourn from Thomas Droke with a second motion from Emily Lowrance; all in favor.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 16th at 3:00pm in the DSS Board Conference Room.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date