

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

June 16, 2020

The Warren County Board of Social Services met in General Session at 10:04 a.m. on this date at the John Graham Center, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. Ms. Arconstar Powell, Chair, Ms. Bertadean Baker, Ms. Betty O'Neal, Ms. Stella Rideout, Ms. Robin Williams, Mr. Ryan Whitson, Board Secretary and Ms. Emma Perry were present.

Also in attendance were Ms. Mary Ann Roberson, Administrative Officer and Brenda Abbott, taking the DSS Board Minutes.

Chairperson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Mr. Whitson was welcomed back to work following his military deployment and shared that he had been deployed to the Horn of Africa for over 9 months.

Chairperson called for a moment of silence.

The minutes from the May 11th, 2020 Social Services Board General Session meeting were reviewed. The Chairperson called for a motion to approve minutes. Ms. Rideout made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. O'Neal. Motion carried.

Ms. Perry briefed on her Director's Report which was included in the Board packet. When asked if anyone had any questions, there were none.

Financial Update: Ms. Roberson passed out a copy of the DSS Revised Budget spreadsheet and gave an overall explanation of the amount for revenues and spending expenditures for both DSS and the Child Support Office. Ms. Roberson asked if there were any questions, there was minimal discussion.

COVID-19 Update: Ms. Perry stated DSS was using a drop box outside of the door on 1st floor for applications and information from clients. DSS will also return to the regular work schedule on Wednesday, the 17th. We will continue to use the same set up at the front door for the time being. Clients are allowed to step into the front door to pick up applications. Clients are encouraged to call their caseworkers if they have any questions and are also permitted to fax information to their caseworkers. Ms. Perry informed the Board that one person had been reported positive for the virus.

There were questions about the safety for the employees of DSS. Miss Perry stated that everyone had been given a mask, hand sanitizer, gloves and we were to practice the 6' social distancing. There would be more changes when everybody was back at work. Mr. Whitson will hold a staff meeting outdoors later with all employees and go over changes.

Medicaid: Ms. Perry informed the Board that Medicaid did pass the report card for the last 3 months. There were two cases where errors were found and the County may have to pay this money back.

Ms. Cynthia Cason contracted with DSS to work with the Adult Medicaid Unit. Her time expires the end of June and there will be a meeting with her to discuss if she is interested in renewing her contract.

More people are receiving Food Stamps because of unemployment.

Child Welfare Update: Ms. Perry stated there has been no change in Child Welfare thus far. DSS has 4 children in custody and 3 of these children will soon be placed with relatives. The Court House is still closed because of the COVID 19 virus but is expecting to reopen in July.

Adult Services Update: Ms. Perry informed the Board that there was no change in the Adult Services Unit. There are still 19 wards and no cremations to report.

Personnel Update: Ms. Perry informed the Board that the Adult Medicaid Unit is still without a Supervisor.

There is one slot in the Family and Children Medicaid Unit to be filled. A Processing Assistant III position is open.

Krishawn Bynam, Child Support Supervisor, resigned to take a job in another county, which leaves her position of Child Support Supervisor open. Ms. Mariam Williams retired from the In-Home Aide Program. There is still an opening for an In-Home Aid Supervisor.

It was also noted that Cindy Davis is returning part time back to the County Manager's Office after a short retirement.

Mr. Whitson informed the Board that filling the supervisor positions would be his top priority.

Closed Session per General Statute NCGS 143-318.111 (6): Ms. Powell called for a motion to go out of General Session and go into Closed Session. Ms. Rideout made a motion to go out of General Session and go into Closed Session at 10:46 a.m., seconded by Ms. Baker. Motion carried.

The June Board Meeting reconvened back into the General Session at 12:04 p.m.

Closing Comments: Mr. Whitson returned from his Military duty and today was his first day back to DSS.

Commissioner Baker made the motion to reinstate Mr. Whitson as the Director of Warren County Department of Social Services effective June 16, 2020.

Ms. Rideout seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Perry stated she enjoyed her time as Interim. She thanked the Board for their help, guidance and for having confidence in her. She said she learned a lot and would continue to serve Warren County as long as she worked at DSS. The Board members thanked Ms. Perry for her excellent job as Interim Director.

Ms. Perry will continue as the Deputy Director for DSS.

Ms. Powell thanked everyone for her time in the Chairperson's seat. Ms. Powell informed the DSS Board that this was her last day with them after serving 3 years. She decided not to serve another term but stay home and help take care of her great-grandchild. Her term expires June 30, 2020.

Ms. Rideout also thanked everyone for their support while she was on the Board and also while being the Chairperson. Ms. Rideout's second term will expire this month on the 30th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Date

Chairperson

Secretary