

February 25, 2020

The Alamance County Social Services Board met for its regular monthly meeting on this date. Those in attendance were: Commissioner Amy Galey, DSS Board Member; Heidi Norwick, Chair DSS Board Member; Ms. Adrian Daye, Director; Ms. Latawnya Hall, Adult Services Program Manager; Ms. Kelly Inman, Assistant Director of Operations; Ms. Lynette Wellons, Child Welfare Program Manager; Mr. Jason Cole, IT Director; Ms. Angela Cole, Child Welfare Program Manager; Ms. Sherry Cooper, Business Officer; Ms. Candice Gobble, Economic Services Program Manager; Ms. Jamie Hatfield, Economic Services Program Manager; Ms. Andrea Rollins, County Managers Office; Ms. Katrina Jackson, Child Care Supervisor and Ms. Wendy Walker, Attorney were present.

Ms. Heidi Norwick, DSS Board Chair opened the meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda: Heidi Norwick, DSS Board Chair

January items on the consent agenda will be tabled to next meeting due to no quorum.

Staff Reports:

Fiscal: Ms. Sherry Cooper

The target rate for revenues is 50% for January. Revenues are trending \$42, 068.00 less than previous year. The target rate for expenditures is 58%. Expenditures are \$173,117.00 more than previous year.

Fraud: See report -

Unit	January 2020	January 2019	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Fraud	\$17,662.29	\$13,552.62	\$118,576.40	\$87,298.60

The Fraud Unit has provided program integrity training/updates to ongoing Economic Services staff during the month of January.

Services – Ms. Adrian Daye, Director -

Adult and Family Services Program Manager: Ms. Latawnya Hall

Child Support –

Unit	January 2020	January 2019	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Child Support	\$856,927.39	\$889,868.32	\$6,216,097.42	\$6,211,882.20

Ms. Hall reported March is Social Worker appreciation month. We have a lot of activities outlined for Child Care, Child Welfare and Adult Services social workers.

Children Services Program Manager: Ms. Lynette Wellons

Ms. Cole reported “Ring Out” Child Abuse has been scheduled for April 20, 2020 at 12:30pm at the Historic Courthouse in Graham. Flyers will be forthcoming when available.

Ms. Wellons announced successful adoption for one child who was in foster care for 1,622 days. Our social workers worked hard and found family member for the child in Florida. There were many scheduled trips for visits with the child and family. We partnered with Children’s Home Society and worked with Florida DSS and the child was adopted on February 14, 2020.

Ms. Wellons reported In-Home Federal Review audit is complete. We had no errors and only strengths were noted.

Ms. Wellons reported IV-E Federal review is upcoming. There has been one case pulled for review upcoming. This is review is more in depth.

Economic Support: Ms. Jamie Hatfield

Ms. Jamie Hatfield reported we are on target for timeliness dates this month. Economic Services staff will be trained via webinar today regarding HB630 Performance Measures. In this webinar, the objective is to teach staff how to run reports and track ongoing performance. The webinar will focus on the 17 performance measures from 5 different programmatic areas:

- Adult Services (4)
- Child Support (5)
- Energy Programs (2)
- Food & Nutrition Services (4)
- Work First (2)

Ms. Hatfield reported new alert system – NCDHHS Alerts – the alert system was created to help people enrolled in Medicaid and Food & Nutrition (FNS) services receive important messages quickly and easily, NCDHHS has launched this new communication service.

The alerts will allow people who opt in to receive text messages or emails from NCDHHS beginning February 24, 2020. NCDHHS will not send messages to anyone without permission. The messages will be informational and will not contain personal confidential information.

The alerts will provide people with information during a disaster, details on how to apply for energy assistance programs and other helpful information.

Ms. Hatfield reported our main focus now is to fill the 15 vacancies in Economic Services. We have started interviews this week with hopes to get the positions filled quickly.

Family Justice Center – Kelly Inman -

Ms. Inman reported the candidate which we selected for FJC Director has pulled application due to family emergency. We are working diligently on next steps for this position. FJC was awarded the continuation grant for 2020. Ms. Inman reported she is trying to spend an hour or more a day at FJC to help fill the void.

Ms. Inman also reported we are interviewing for the Elder Justice Project Coordinator position. We will work with the Justice Advisory Council (JAC) next month to do strategic planning since the position has been vacant for several months – Gary Ander will facilitate.

Operations – Ms. Kelly Inman, Assistant Director of Operations –

Administrative Support/Personnel: No report –

See Statistical Report – as of January 31, 2020

Vacancies	24
New Hires	3
Interagency Transfer	4
Resignations	3

IT Report: Mr. Jason Cole

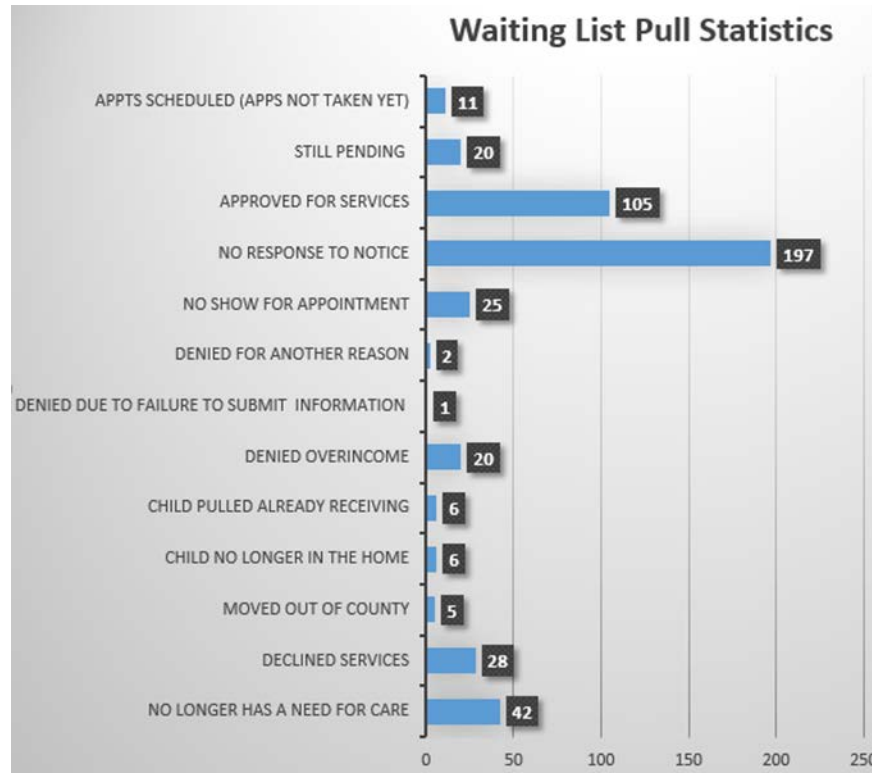
No report.

Child Care Report: Ms. Katrina Jackson

Ms. Katrina Jackson, Child Care Supervisor distributed Child Care Waiting list update. Ms. Jackson gave brief overview of the waiting list. Ms. Jackson reported she has five staff who work in the unit – (4) Social Workers and (1) Administrative Assistant.

- Prior to removal of statewide funding restrictions **October 2019** – Alamance DSS Waiting List – **1,237** (exceeding the number of children served for September 2019 (1, 101)
- **Effective October 18, 2019** – the Division of Child Development & Early Education (DCDEE) permitted counties with spending coefficients below 100% to start serving children from waiting list.
- **October 21, 2019** – ACDSS Child Care Unit moved quickly starting with priority groups and moved 300 children off the waiting list – approving 140 and reducing the number to below 1,000 since March 2018.

- **January 10, 2020** – DCDEE expanded their original directive indicating counties should continue to serve from the waiting list even if their current spending coefficient was above 100%.
- **December 27, 2019 – February 5, 2020** – ACDSS pulled 468 additional families, which added 157 children (105 families were approved of the 468). Response rates were much lower than anticipated:



- On **January 31, 2020** – ACDSS received a reallocation of \$284,153.00 as a result of increased spending
- As of **February 18, 2020** – Only 347 children remain on the wait list. Presently there are 218 pending families.
- As of **March 3, 2020** – there are only **36** children remain on the wait list

Ms. Jackson reported we continue to reach out to families since the wait list is so low. There were families who were not interested due to child has already been placed with child care provider and did not want to disrupt the child care.

Director’s Report – Ms. Adrian Daye, Director –

Director Daye reported on new process for NC FAST Certification that could possibly impact budget -

NC FAST Certification – The State has created new policy/certification guidelines for all staff who use NC FAST will be required to pass NC FAST Certification. The timeline for certification

for employees is 18 months for existing staff. All new staff will have to be certified before any entering can be done in NC FAST. There are two functions:

- **Core Function** – any staff who makes changes in NC FAST (Energy, FNS, etc.) – 50 question functionality test (Pass/Fail with at least 70%). Staff will also have to participate in web based training.
- **Level 1 Programmatic Certification** – any staff who will make eligibility determination for any of the services: FNS, Traditional Medicaid, MAGI, Cash Asset/WF, SA, Energy & Child Care. This test is not Pass/Fail. Every staff will have to build a profile and take a test. With this level, supervisors will receive a detailed report of what's current and what's not current.
- Alamance Co. DSS is Group 4 of this process – August 2020. Director Daye reported she has contacted the State to see if there is room at the table to participate as a Pilot County to be on the front end.

Public Charge – term used in immigration law to determine whether a person is likely to become dependent on the government for support. The law was approved and to be effective October 2019 but federal injunctions were granted and the implementation was put on hold. The decision has been lifted by the Supreme Court January 2020 and the law becomes effective, Monday February 24, 2020. This new rule changes how immigration offices make public charge decisions. Immigration officials will look more closely at factors like health, age, income, skills (including English language skills) and use of public programs, including: SNAP, EBT or FNS, Section 8/Public Housing, Medicaid (except for emergency services, children under 21 years, pregnant and new mothers), cash assistance programs (like SSI, TANF) –

Benefits not affected will be (WIC, ACA/Obamacare, School lunches, Food banks and Shelters)

Family First Prevention Services Act – the act passed in February 2018 which will impact federal child welfare financing and programs. The primary provision for this act is prevention services and limitations on funding for congregate care. This law continues to allow states to cover costs related to foster care and adoption assistance, however states may opt to extend federal (IV-E) reimbursement to cover certain expenditures and services related to preventing foster care placements.

Family First also includes provisions that will limit IV-E foster care spending for children in congregate care settings. This means that existing IV-E funding for children & youth in group settings will be limited to the first two weeks of placement, unless the child/youth has certain specified permissible needs that necessitate a group placement.

The federal partners have given states the option of implementing prevention and congregate care provisions as early as October 2019 and up to September 2021. North Carolina has opted to extend implementation of both provisions through September 2021, allowing adequate time to plan & implement services that are specific to the needs of children and families in NC.

Director Daye reported there is a huge work group assigned to Family First working to ensure children and families have the services they need to keep children safe. The work group will continue to explore the congregate care funding limitation to identify new ways that we can better meet the needs of those children who need congregate care.

NC CARE 360 – Director Daye announced ACDSS will begin using the program. Currently involved with a State Work group on how it will work at DSS. Director Daye expressed we may become a referral agency – there are a lot of components. More to come soon.

County MOU Agreements – Director Daye reported on the current status of the County MOU Agreements. There have been some problems with some measures that were discovered at the State level after validation efforts. There has been collaboration with the counties and NCDHHS on pursuing better and fair methods for assessing several measures.

Director Daye reported the NCDHHS has made the decision that no formal corrective actions related to MOU performance during FY 2019- 2020 will be issued. NCDHHS will continue to work on the barriers and will continue to monitor performance, share data with counties and address performance issues as necessary.

Director Daye reported overall AC DSS is doing well with performance measures. We are aware of the difficulties in Work First – data issues. We are aware of the issues in Child Support – we are working to try and secure a contract retired staff person to help with reports and get back on track. We are waiting on guidance from the State for Child Support.

New Business:

No presentation – will be tabled to future meeting.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment -

The next board meeting is 12:00 noon **Tuesday, March 24, 2020** in the Boardroom located on the first floor at the Human Services Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:
Carmen L. Morrow

Date approved: _____