

September 27, 2022

The Alamance County Social Services Board met for its regular monthly meeting on this date. The meeting was held at Alamance County Social Services, 1950 Martin Street, Burlington NC with the following in attendance were: Ms. Heidi Norwick, Chair, DSS Board Chair; Dr. Ernest Eason, DSS Board Member; Ms. Krista Knight, DSS Board Member; Commissioner Pamela T. Thompson, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candice Gobble, Director; Ms. Lynette Wellons, Assistant Director of Services; Ms. Jamie Hatfield, Economic Services Program Manager; Ms. Wendy Roberts, Economic Services Program Manager; Ms. Danae Pickard, Economic Services Program Manager; Ms. LaPorscha McCullough, Adult Services Program Manager; Mr. Robert Ring, HR Director; Ms. Angela Cole, Child Welfare Program Manager; Mr. Jason Cole, IT Director; Ms. Rebecca Lambert, Child Welfare Program Manager and Ms. Jamie Hamlett, Attorney were present.

Heidi Norwick, DSS Chair opened the meeting.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Consent Agenda: Heidi Norwick, DSS Board Chair**

August items on the consent agenda approved. Dr. Ernest Eason made motion to approve and seconded by Commissioner Pamela Thompson.

**Staff Reports:**

**Fiscal: Ms. Candice Gobble**

	<b>AUGUST 2022</b>	<b>% OF BUDGET</b>	<b>PRIOR YTD</b>	<b>% OF BUDGET</b>
REVENUES	\$1,151,076.00	10%	\$2,491,594.00	20%
EXPENDITURES	\$3,007,544.00	14%	\$2,884,836.00	13%

Director Gobble announced we will move the quarterly reports for Fiscal reporting. You will continue to receive the monthly revenues and expenditures in your board packets. We are moving to quarterly reporting to provide more detailed information – will provide information on allocations, etc.

Director Gobble reported she will be able to report more on 75/25 Medicaid Claim next month once we receive the 1571 – will be able to see the impact of how it affects DSS financially.

**Fraud: See report –**

Unit	August 2022	August 2021	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Fraud	\$6,363.34	\$18,147.43	\$12,727.34	\$22,794.43

**Services – Ms. Lynette Wellons/Assistant Director of Services -**

**Adult and Family Services Program Manager: LaPorscha McCullough**

**Child Support – (Statistical Report Information) – see report.**

Unit	August 2022	August 2021	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Child Support	\$891,946.71	\$918,446.61	\$1,752,738.31	\$1,788,145.35

**Child Support –**

Ms. McCullough reported the Child Support Unit recently completed State Review/Audit. There were seven cases reviewed and zero findings – 100% compliant.

**Adult Services -**

- No report.

**Children Services Program Manager: Ms. Angela Cole/Ms. Rebecca Lambert**

Ms. Cole reported Child Welfare recently completed Quarterly Assessment Review. This was the first time this review pulled random cases – total of six. Despite staffing issues, we came through the audit without any findings. The level of ongoing contacts was not reviewed.

**Question: Have there been a lot of reports since school is now back in session?**

*We typically receive a lot of reports in the months of September/October. Alamance-Burlington School system is our primary reporter. We have seen an increase in numbers this month.*

Ms. Cole added she is presenting today at Elon University and will present the following information:

Child Welfare Reports	2020-2021	2021-2022
State Reports	13,512	21,684
Alamance County DSS	265	435

Ms. Lambert reported we will undergo Adoption Assistance Audit in the coming month.

**Economic Support: Ms. Jamie Hatfield/Ms. Danae Pickard/Ms. Wendy Roberts**

- No report.

**Operations – Ms. Candice Gobble, Assistant Director of Operations**

**Administrative Support/Personnel: Robert Ring**

See Statistical Report – as of August 31, 2022

Vacancies	45
New Hires	7
Interagency Transfers	3
Resignations	6

Since August 1, 2022 – we have completed the following:

Number of Job Offers	Outcome
15	
11	Accepted
3	Turned down offer due to pay
1	Took another job

	Child Welfare	Adult Services	Economic Services
Number of Scheduled Interviews	20	9	23
No Response	5	2	
Cancelled			6
No -Shows			2
Decision		2	
Total Interviewed	15	5	15

Out of the 35 interviewed, we hired 11 people.

**Question: What is the total number of staffs you need in CPS?**

*We should have at least 20 assessors – we currently have in 5 rotation. We currently have new staff in pre-service training and all other required trainings before staff can go into rotation.*

**Question: How long will it take a new social worker directly out of college to be able to take a case?**

*There are numerous amounts of training that has to be completed before any staff can work any cases – usually during the 6-month probation period – a new staff has completed the required training to go into rotation with supervision and pre-service.*

**Question: Do the current staff practice self-care?**

*Yes – we have Mary Shaw on staff who presents several self-care trainings and other avenues such as Monday Meditation, etc.*

Mr. Ring reported the new County Manager has agreed to allow DSS to negotiate pay with staff who are interviewing with experience. We did have 3 applicants turn us down due to salary and all 3 had experience.

**Child Care: Candice Gobble**

- No report.

### **IT Report: Mr. Jason Cole**

Mr. Cole reported we recently added 4 Kiosk Computers in the front lobby at DSS to assist customers with applying for services, as well as recertifications.

### **Director's Report – Candice J. Gobble, Director–**

Director Gobble reported there are staffing issues all across the State of NC. Director Gobble discussed current article from the Association that she will forward to Board Members that addresses the “NC Child Welfare is in crisis and state could be sued at any point”.

#### **See link for article:**

[https://carolinapublicpress.org/56616/nc-child-welfare-leader-says-system-is-in-crisis-and-state-could-be-sued-at-any-point/?utm\\_source=Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=7471d7e8d9-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1545d58992-7471d7e8d9-195519649&mc\\_cid=7471d7e8d9&mc\\_eid=d0ccc7a8a5](https://carolinapublicpress.org/56616/nc-child-welfare-leader-says-system-is-in-crisis-and-state-could-be-sued-at-any-point/?utm_source=Subscribers&utm_campaign=7471d7e8d9-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1545d58992-7471d7e8d9-195519649&mc_cid=7471d7e8d9&mc_eid=d0ccc7a8a5)

### **New Business:**

#### **Partnership with VAYA Health – Rebecca Lambert**

Ms. Rebecca Lambert, Child Welfare Program Manager presented the following:

#### **Areas of Engagement:**

- Foster Child Reinvestment Funds
- Social Determinants of Health
- Single Point Assessments
- Relationships – Very positive outcomes and relationships

#### **Foster Child Reinvestment Funds:**

Alamance County initially entered into sub-capitated agreements with Cardinal Innovations in June 2021. These funds issued for a broad set of services designed to support children in DSS custody or at risk of entering custody and/or Medicaid eligible.

There are six indicators used to determine when and how we use the funds.

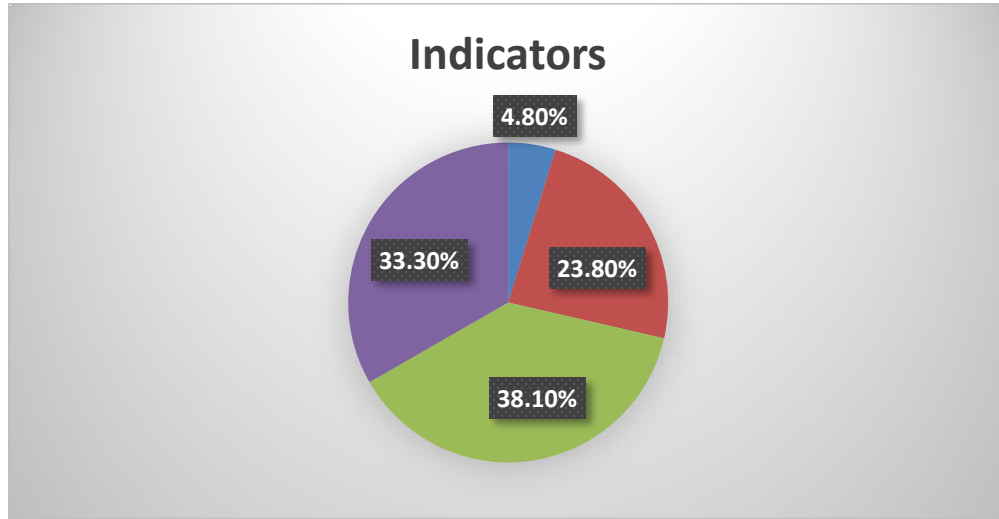
#### **Funds used to:**

- Prevent custody –
- Fund Non-Medicaid covered needs – purchase eye glasses, dental care, specialized therapy services
- Reduce Placement Disruptions – need leveling- used enhanced rates to bridge the gap to avoid placement disruptions – *(most widely used at DSS)*

- Reduce time in Foster Care – supporting the parents in reunification efforts, perhaps this might be assisting with utilities being turned on or deposit for rent.
- Increase Family Engagement – purchase zoo tickets and toys for Petree building – visitation space.

Alamance County DSS reports quarterly on these indicators and VAYA utilizes this information to access benefit to the community and measure the benefit to children in care.

**Indicators Since July 2022:**



Increase Family Engagement	4.8%
Non-Medicaid Funded Needs	23.8%
Reduce Placement Disruptions	38.1%
Custody Prevention	33.3%

In June 2022, VAYA updated the tracking of indicators. The primary source of benefits are custody prevention and reduction of placement disruptions.

**Foster Child Reinvestment Funds:**

First Issuance 9/1/2021 \$1,268,198.20	Current Balance 9/6/2022 \$2,075,553.22	Total Expended \$133,246.78
<i>Over 200 Individuals benefitted</i>	<i>Reduced County Fund usage</i>	<i>Prevented the use of Blue Cottage</i>

At this time, we have not received any additional funds from VAYA for this fiscal year. We are in close communication with VAYA as they assess what this looks like going forward.

**Question: Will the funds revert back?**

*No – The \$2m was approved by County Commissioners to roll over to this fiscal year.*

**Question: Is it hard to spend the money due to total amount expended?**

*We use the funds with caution to make sure we are using wisely and meeting the criteria established. The criteria most widely used is to prevent placement disruptions – especially the use of the “Blue Cottage”.*

**Social Determinants of Health Funding:**

- Healthcare system
- Economic Stability
- Neighborhood and physical environment
- Education
- Food
- Community and Social Context

**Available Items: Funded by NCDHHS to VAYA Health from 7/1/2022 – 9/30/2022 –**

- Duffel Bags/Book Bags
- Hygiene Kits
- Blankets
- Smoke Alarms/Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Lice Treatment Kits
- Gun Locks – fosters our county initiative from our fatality review last year, to ensure proper safety measures are in place for children.
- Medication Lockboxes

These items are on hand for Social Workers to distribute to families in need.

**Single Point Assessments:**

Delivered to DSS in partnership with VAYA Health and Youth Villages since December 2021. Single point assessments benefit the three major areas in child welfare, with a simple, one-stop scheduling with Comprehensive Clinical Assessments, which allows for children to be assessed for enhanced services or higher levels of care.

This process often starts in assessments with our first point of contact. Our social workers are training in screening for trauma and making referrals accordingly. Embedding this into our process has been a seamless transition for our social workers.

1. **Assessments** – Clients in need of enhanced mental health services or going on for services
2. **In-Home** – All cases, unless a Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA) is already in place
3. **Foster Care** – Updated CCA if needed

**Our Partnership – Serving the Community Together –  
We are Stronger Together**

Our partnership with VAYA has been great. VAYA offers consistent, strong support, 24/7 coverage. They have proven to be patient partners:

- Embedded Care Manager on site at DSS – provide support & guidance and resources to our Social Work teams
- FAST Track system – allows access to other emergency provisions & placements when children are very near to entering Blue Cottage
- Community Based Involvement
- 24-Hr. Crisis Line
- VAYA Only Emergency Placements
- Conduct Bi-Weekly Staffing’s

**Question: Is VAYA involved in the process the whole way?**

*It depends on case-by-case basis. We only use VAYA if child has Medicaid. There are many factors to placement.*

**Announcements:**

None

**Adjournment -**

The next board meeting is 12:00 noon **Tuesday, October 25, 2022** at 1950 Martin Street, Burlington NC – Family Justice Center.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Carmen L. Morrow*

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Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_