

# WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

January 23, 2020

The Warren County Board of Social Services met in General Session at 10:00 a.m. on this date at the John Graham Center, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room. Ms. Powell, Chair, Ms. Bertadean Baker, Ms. Betty O'Neal, and Ms. Perry, Board Secretary, were present. Ms. Williams and Ms. Rideout were unable to attend.

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

Chairperson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Chairperson called for a moment of silence.

The minutes from the December 16, 2019 Social Services Board meeting was reviewed. The Chairperson called for a motion to approve minutes after a correction was made to the Closing Comments. Ms. O'Neal made a motion to approve the minutes after the correction was made, seconded by Ms. Baker. Motion carried.

The minutes from the Closed Session Board Meeting: Per General Statute NCGS 143-318.11 for the month of November and December were reviewed. Chairperson called for a motion to approve minutes. Ms. O'Neal made a motion to approve minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Baker. 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, indicating the figures were for the last five months. Ms. Roberson asked the DSS Board if they wanted her to make any changes to her report, as in, adding more information. Everybody liked the report as is. Ms. Roberson asked if there were any questions, there were none.

**Medicaid:** Ms. Perry stated she attended a Correction Action entry meeting for Medicaid on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Baker, Ms. Powell, and the County Manager were in attendance. Warren County failed the Medicaid report card October, November, December 2018 and January 2019. Warren County also fail the report card August, September, October, and November 2019. The State and County will partner together to develop a corrective action plan for the agency to come out of corrective action. Ms. Perry, the County Manager, and the State will facilitate an all-staff meeting to address the severity and possible implications of corrective action.

Ms. Cason has been with DSS for 3 weeks and shared the needs of the county per her assessment. She was highly praised by the State because of her expertise with the Medicaid

field. Ms. Cason is under contract from January 6<sup>th</sup> through April 3, 2020. If she needs to stay longer, the extra expense will be deducted from the lap salary coverage line item.

**LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program):** Ms. Perry informed the Board that the LIEAP PROGRAM opened on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for the elderly and disabled population. The program opened the first of January to the public. Ms. Perry requested for an additional \$75,000 but only received \$8,000 from the State. The money didn't last but a day or so.

**Agency Flooding:** On January 13<sup>th</sup>, water started flooding from both of the restrooms on the first floor. The Maintenance Department was contacted immediately about the situation and they came over and started the clean-up process. A blockage from the town sewer system caused the water from draining properly from the DSS Building. Because of safety and sanitary reasons Ms. Perry thought the employees should be allowed to leave. She contacted the County Manager and expressed her concern and Mr. Jones was in agreement with Ms. Perry to close the building around 3:00 pm. Ms. Perry and Ms. Kristie Moreno, Family and Children's Supervisor, stayed until 5:00, until everything was cleaned up, and to see any clients that came in.

**Child Welfare Update:** There has been no change in last month's update. There are still 5 children in foster care.

**Adult Services Update:** Ms. Perry stated there has been no change and there are 18 wards.

**Personnel Update:** Ms. Perry informed the Board that the Adult Medicaid Supervisor's position is still vacant. The position was advertised in the newspaper and a few applications were received but there were no strong candidates. This position will be re-advertised. CPS new Social Worker, Janell Watkins, will start on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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. O'Neal made a motion to go out of General Session and go into Closed Session NCGS 143-318.11 (6) at 10:40 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Baker. Motion carried.

A motion was made to reconvene back into General Session by Ms. Baker at 11:17 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. O'Neal. Motion carried.

**Closing Comments:** Ms. Powell thanked everyone for coming and for their help. Ms. Perry thanked everyone for their support. There was mention of the Suggestion Box but more discussion would be at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

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Chairperson

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Date

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Secretary