

The Cleveland County DSS Advisory Board met on Monday, July 25, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Mary Accor, Allison Gragg, Betsy Wells, and Deb Hardin

DSS staff present: Katie Swanson, Misty Merritt, Alice Wilson, Andrea Power, and Annette Pendergraft

County Attorney present: Chuck Wilson

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Accor called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM and Betsy Wells led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JULY 25, 2022, DSS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:

Chair Accor presented the proposed consent agenda for the July 25, 2022, DSS Advisory Board meeting for consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by Allison Gragg with a second by Betsy Wells to approve the proposed agenda for the July 25, 2022, DSS Advisory Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Minutes

The Clerk to the Board emailed the minutes from the April 25, 2022, and the June 27, 2022, meeting to Advisory Board members prior to the July 25, 2022, meeting.

B. Personnel Report

The Clerk to the Board emailed the personnel report to Advisory Board members prior to the July 25, 2022, meeting.

Director Swanson updated the board on current vacancies within the agency. We currently have a Child Support Agent I position, (3) Child Support Agent II positions, an IMC I, (8) IMC II positions, a SW III Adult worker, (2) SWIAT workers, (2) SWIII workers, a SWSIII, and (2) Program Manager positions.

C. Executive Summary

The Clerk to the Board emailed the Executive Summary to Advisory Board members prior to the July 25, 2022, meeting. Director Swanson reminded everyone that we would continue to update and provide graphs for a clearer interpretation of items that are listed in the executive summary.

D. Transition of Chair

Mary Accor has served as Chair to the DSS advisory board for many years and is transitioning to a regular board member. Allison Gragg has agreed to be our Chair for a term of one year.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION:

Chair Accor presented the consent agenda for the July 25, 2022, DSS Advisory Board meeting for adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Deb Hardin with a second by Betsy Wells to approve the consent agenda for the July 25, 2022, DSS Advisory Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Data Look Back:

Katie Swanson presented data trends over the past 5 years. The first set of data trends was for Medicaid recipients. There were 36792 individuals that received Medicaid assistance in 2022 compared to 29235 people in 2018. Food and Nutrition Services data for 2022 was 12508 families that received FNS benefits compared to 10019 compared to 2018. Work First trends for individuals receiving benefits have decreased of the last 5 years. 180 people received benefits in 2022 compared to 269 in 2018. The program has not had an increase in benefits in over 25 years. The last trend set is for Subsidized Child Care. The number of children receiving subsidized childcare in 2022 is 675 and in 2018 it was 600 children. There was a dip in 2021 due to covid. The increase in 2022 is due to increased funds and serving the waiting list for daycare.

B. Advisory Board Report:

The advisory board report is a report that the County has requested all boards to complete. This is an organization effort for all boards in Cleveland County. This report will provide information about our mission, goals, objectives, accomplishments and any barriers or challenges that exist as well. Some discussion has already taken place during the last

advisory board meeting. The report was updated with details from last meeting and now is being presented at this meeting for a finalized version of this report. Final edits were made, and the final copy will be updated after completion of the meeting and emailed to all board members before sending to the County.

BOARD REPORTS:

A. Child Protection/Fatality Team:

Lendra Phillips was unable to be present at this board meeting and therefore we will not have a report at this meeting.

B. NCACBSS

Chair Gragg did present Betsy Wells with the NCACBSS report. Betsy expressed the excitement for the upcoming SSI convention in August. The first day of SSI explains the make-up of the board, and new officers will be sworn in on Thursday of that week. Cleveland County DSS Director, Katie Swanson will be presenting at this conference. We have several staff members that will attend sessions as well at this conference. Betsy spoke about how informative the conference is for everyone. The conference is scheduled to have 800 participants this year.

C. Commissioners

Chair Gragg did present Commissioner Hardin with Commissioner updates. Commissioner Hardin spoke about the new full-service EMS space in Lawndale that is now fully functional. The contract for the Cleveland County fair has been signed and will take place this year, which will be the first time it is being held since Covid began. County Commissioners will have a joint meeting with the Cleveland County School Board.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chair Gragg asked if there was any other business to discuss.

ADJOURN: 5:15 PM

There being no further business, Chair Gragg called for adjournment of the meeting.

The next DSS Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2022, at 4:00 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Andrea Power, Clerk to Advisory Board
Cleveland County Department of Social Services