

The Cleveland County DSS Advisory Board met on Monday, August 29, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Allison Gragg, Mary Accor, Danny Blanton, Betsy Wells, Deb Hardin, and Lendra Phillips

DSS staff present: Destiny Davidson, Andrea Power, Annette Pendergraft, Misti Merritt, Tracy Tolbert, Sherry Vess, Ali Wilson

County Attorney present: Chuck Wilson

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Gragg called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and Danny Blanton led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR AUGUST 29, 2022, DSS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:

Chair Gragg presented the proposed consent agenda for the August 29, 2022, DSS Advisory Board meeting for consideration.

Motion: A motion was made by Betsy Wells with a second by Mary Accor to approve the proposed agenda for the August 29, 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 July 25, 2022, meeting to Advisory Board members prior to the August 29, 2022, meeting.

B. Personnel Report

The Clerk to the Board emailed the personnel report to Advisory Board members prior to the August 29, 2022, meeting.

Deputy Director Davidson updated the board on current vacancies within the agency. We currently have (3) Child Support Agent II positions, an IMC I, (8) IMC II positions, (2) SWIAT, (4) SWIII, (2) SWSIII, and (1) Program Manager position.

C. Executive Summary

The Clerk to the Board emailed the Executive Summary to Advisory Board members prior to the August 29, 2022, meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION:

Chair Accor presented the consent agenda for the August 29, 2022, DSS Advisory Board meeting for adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Mary Accor with a second by Betsy Wells to approve the consent agenda for the August 29, 2022, DSS Advisory Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Data Look Back:

Deputy Director Davidson introduced Misti Merritt who presented data trends. As of September 2022, we have 7671 open child support cases, we have 596 children receiving subsidized childcare as of July 2022. We accepted 74 APS report in July. We processed 321 Medicaid application, there were 36708 total Medicaid recipients in July. We processed 1102 FNS applications and 1016 FNS recertifications in July. We currently have 178 children in custody and accepted 170 CPS reports.

B. Child Support Update:

Destiny Davidson introduced Tracy Tolbert with the Child Support update. Case loads have decreased over the last 5 years due to the new guidelines that the state put into place in 2017 that assesses what people can truly afford to pay in child support. Tracy spoke about if an order has been issued for arrest for child support for a parent being delinquent, we can not keep an order active if the person has provided an incorrect address and the person can't be found. The sheriff's department typically keeps them active for 180 days. Cleveland County collected for year ending 2021/2022 in child support 9 million 79 thousand 387 dollars. We currently serve 7024 families in Cleveland County. August is Child Support awareness month and our child support team partnered with The Shelby Police Department to do a couple of events. We did the National Night Out Event and Fill the Truck Event. We worked with the resource officers from the Shelby Police Department

to help collect school supplies for Cleveland County Schools. We also celebrated internally with a glow party with Child Support staff.

BOARD REPORTS:

A. Child Protection/Fatality Team:

Chair Gragg introduced Lendra Phillips with the Child Protection/Fatality Team. Lendra stated that the last meeting was held on August 18, 2022. 3 cases were discussed and the CFPT team presented and DSS did decide to investigate those cases.

B. NCACBSS

Chair Gragg introduced Mary Accor with the NCACBSS update. Betsy Wells did take time to thank everyone for their support during her time as president for NCACBSS and extended her support to Mary Accor who recently was voted in as president. President Mary Accor did give the NCACBSS update. Mary stated that she did decide that they would have a theme going forward which would be, "Pushing Beyond Familiar". She stated that NCACBSS would work as an association beyond our present, to advocate for positive change. They would reorganize assigned director districts to align with state districts and would continue to collaborate with the school of Government and NCDHHS to facilitate training opportunities. The goals are to increase connections with NCACDSS to include SSI networking and collaboration; communication and advocacy of common goals and visions, to have a designated "Legislative Day", to address "DSS Impact" legislation, to encourage associational membership, develop and updated database for DSS Board memberships, to collaborate and link with NCACC Health and Human Services, and to seek input from association board members for advocacy and SSI needs. The one thing that stood out above anything else is the only really good performance is the one where you make yourself vulnerable, while pushing beyond your familiar comfort zone.

C. Commissioners

Chair Gragg did present Commissioner Hardin with Commissioner updates. Commissioner Hardin stated that a work session has been planned for September 23, 2022, starting at 8:30 AM. She encouraged anyone that would like to see the many things that go on during a work session to please attend.

MISCELLANEOUS:

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

ADJOURN: 4:43 PM

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

The next DSS Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2022, at 4:00 PM.