



PAMLICO COUNTY

Human Services Center

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Deborah S. Green
Director

February 25, 2020

DSS Social Services Board Meeting

Members Present: Angelo Midgette-Chair, Pat Prescott-Co Chair,

Staff Present: Debbie Green, Director and Danielle Jones – Note taker, Lauren Weatherly -Children's Services Supervisor, Annie Donaldson -Foster Care Social Worker

Carinna Smith - Guest

Chair-Angelo Midgette called the meeting to order.

- Mental Health challenges- Lauren Weather & Annie Donaldson update mental health problems are on the rise among adolescents. DSS is currently having placement issues for the increase seen in children. Some children experience dual diagnosis and need different treatment plans along with higher level of care placement requirements. CPS workers have spent days on the phone looking for specialized care for a child currently in DSS custody. Because of the severity of this child's behaviors and needs, finding placement was extremely challenging. The child had to spend the night at DSS, because placement could not be found.
- Social workers are continuing to build up compensatory time due to staff shortage; they are carrying an increased caseload, working on-call hours and working longer hours to meet the needs of the families and children being served.
- Children services update – The Newest CPS worker just completed pre-service training; one worker is still out on medical leave. DSS currently has one Foster Care position open with very few applicants.
- A/C unit installation – the past several weeks contractors have been installing and working on replacing new heating and cooling system. Director advised building hours may need to be adjusted temporarily to accommodate installation, possibly moving to four-ten hour days for a short period of time.
- NC FAST Certification- DHHS will begin requiring training and certification program for caseworkers who utilize the North Carolina Families Accessing Services Through Technology (NC FAST) system to input data or make eligibility determinations for State programs. Current employees have 18 months to complete certification. First phase is a pass or fail. Training for the first certification will take workers 40 hours to complete.
- DHHS / DSS MOU's Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made by and between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and

individual county departments of social services. Due to inaccurate data and reliability, the state is not holding counties accountable for performance measures not being met through the end of this fiscal year.

The next DSS Board meeting will be March 24, 2020