

MINUTES
CARROLL COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Board of Social Services
November 15, 2022

Susan Clark Chairman of the Board, called the November 15, 2022 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Carroll County Department of Social Services with a quorum present. Board members present were: Mr. Robbie McCraw, Ms. Lisa Gardner, Mr. David Clontz, Mr. Roger Cooley and Mr. Fred Bobbitt. Also present was Teresa Isom, Director of Carroll County Department of Social Services (CCDSS) and Jessica Crotts, Administrative Services Manager (ASM) of Carroll County Department of Social Services.

During public comment period of the meeting, a member of the public asked to make a complaint. The citizen stated she wanted to discuss abuse and neglect of a child and requested Director Isom and Administrative Services Manager Crotts leave the meeting, in order for her to make a complaint about an employee of Carroll County DSS and Director Isom. Ms. Clark stated it was not appropriate for the Director and ASM to leave the meeting, and the citizen stated Director Isom was part of the problem and her son had attempted to meet with Ms. Isom and he was denied that request. Board Chairman Susan Clark requested the board go into recess to contact legal counsel. When legal counsel was not reached immediately the board decided to continue with open session business.

On a Motion of Mr. McCraw, seconded by Mr. Clontz, and unanimous vote, the Board approved as submitted the Board Minutes of the regular meeting on October 18, 2022.

On Motion of Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Mr. Cooley, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the Administrative and Program expenditures and refunds:

Payroll: October – \$105,017.97; Administrative Expenditures: October – \$32,250.06; Assistance Expenditures: October– \$208,770.66; Purchase of Service Expenditures: October – \$18,033.16.

The first order of business discussed during the Director’s Report was informing the board members of the adoption of one child. The male child had been in care since 2018, and due to behavior issues has had multiple placements, however, he has found his forever home with his

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current foster mother. On a motion of Mr. McCraw, seconded by Ms. Gardner, and unanimous vote the Board approved the adoption.

Next, Ms. Isom informed the Board that for the month of September, Child Protective Services referrals and reports were above the federal requirement of 95%, scoring a 97%.

Ms. Isom reported Carroll County Maintenance had been contacted in reference to the shelving needed for the clothing closet and Ms. Crotts was waiting on a response.

Ms. Isom informed the Board of the positive outcome of changing the agency’s business card to Truist. Ms. Crotts and the Fiscal Assistant were now able to get statements online, so there was not an issue with late fees.

Next, Ms. Isom stated there were currently 370 FUEL Assistance applications being process by the EAP worker, with an additional 150 applications being processed by the Human Services Assistant/Screeener. The program closed on November 15, 2022.

Lastly, Ms. Isom reported to the Board that Elisha's House open house was tonight. Elisha's House is a warming house for anyone, the temperature must be 29 degrees or below in order for the house to open. Participants receive a free meal, shower, cot and blankets for the night, Elisha's House is being staffed by volunteers.

After topics of open session were completed Ms. Clark addressed the member of the public stating the board had not heard back from legal counsel, so the board would not be removing the Director and ASM from the meeting and it would not be appropriate to go into closed session during public comment. The citizen stated she was making a formal complaint in regard to her grandson. The citizen stated she made an anonymous Child Protective Services report to Carroll County DSS and nothing was done with the complaint. The citizen reported she sent an anonymous letter to her husband prior to the September 20, 2022 DSS Board Meeting requesting pictures and a letter be presented to the board. The citizen reported she had also contacted Galax DSS multiple times, but was unable to make a complaint though she had been advised by a Carroll County DSS board member to make the complaint to Galax. The citizen stated she is making a complaint of physical and medical neglect. The citizen reported the court system is biased and prejudice and the judge should recuse herself. The citizen reported she has spoken to a representative from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) who stated she needed to go to the CCDSS board meeting and if she was not able to provide her information to the Board she was to contact VDSS back and an investigation would be initiated.

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The citizen stated she would be contacting the state representative to inform them of what occurred at the meeting. The citizen concluded her complaint with stating that her son was not present to make this complaint because of his fear that the mother of the child will pursue fictitious charges against him. Ms. Clark thanked the member of the public for the information.

On a motion of Ms. Clark seconded by Ms. Gardner, and unanimous vote, the Board went into Closed Session as authorized but the Virginia Code Section 22-3711(A) 1, 8, 7 to discuss personnel issues.

Ms. Clark made the following motion: I move for Certification that: the closed meeting was conducted in compliance with Virginia Law, and only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements and identified in the motion to convene the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting.

On a Motion of Ms. Clark, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt; and unanimous vote, the Board reconvened back into open meeting. The Board certified that only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which this Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

On a Motion of Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Mr. Cooley having no further business, by unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on December 20, 2022 at 6pm.

Signed: _____

Susan Clark, (Chairperson)

Signed: _____

Teresa Isom (Secretary)

JLC

Typed: November 28, 2022

