The Cleveland County Consolidated Human Services Board met on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cleveland County Health & Social Services Building.

Board members present: Sara Karner, Kale Meade, Robert Miller, Marty Hamrick, Christina Alexander, Nancy Cline, Paula Canipe, Danny Blanton, Mary Accor, Suzanne Hensley, Rick Dixon,

Staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Andrea Power, Rebecca Johnson, Sherry Vess, Leslie McSwain, Megan Homan, Alice Wilson, Nicole Smith

County Attorney present: Logan Roberts

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Sara Karner called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens were recognized.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 9, 2026, CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING:

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the June 9, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Danny Blanton with a second by Marty Hamrick to adopt the agenda for June 9, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2026, CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING:

Chair Karner presented the May 12, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting Minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller with a second by Mary Accor to approve the May 12, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

SUBSIDIZED CHILDCARE LOCAL POLICY APPROVAL:

Chair Karner introduced Nicole Smith with the Subsidized Childcare Local Policy Presentation. Nicole began by explaining that the purpose of this local policy is to establish how Cleveland County will prioritize childcare services when there are insufficient funds, staffing, or childcare spaces available. The policy outlines the priority populations Cleveland County intends to serve, including prioritization of children in care and other identified groups based on county need. In addition, the policy establishes procedures for servicing families from the waiting list when resources become available, including the use of priority order, chronological placement on the waiting list, or other county-approved methods. The purpose for subsidized childcare is to assist working families by providing childcare support that enables parents and responsible adults to work, attend school, or participate in training, while promoting family stability and self-sufficiency. Our funding sources for this program are State Subsidy, which is our primary funding source for childcare assistance serving eligible children ages birth to 12 years, and Smart Start funding is an additional funding source that supports children ages birth to five. Funds are utilized to provide services through childcare providers that maintain a 4-star or 5-star rating. For the Fiscal Year 25/26 Cleveland County received $5,455,908.00 in State Subsidies, $374.067.00 from Smart Start with a total combined funding of $5,829,975.00. Our expenditures through April 2026 are $4,265,115.00 State Subsidy funds spent, and $343.403.00 Smart Start funds spent. Cleveland County serves an average of 735 children per month, and facilities are paid directly by the State. Nicole also explained that Counties move to a waiting list when available State, Federal, or Smart Start funding has been fully obligated or is close to being exhausted, the County cannot safely approve additional cases without risking over obligation of funds, and the County determines it must prioritize existing recipients and mandatory service groups. The local DSS must submit new local policy to the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) at least every two calendar years, anytime the local policy is amended; or anytime there are changes in the local governing board members. As we have shown during this presentation, subsidized childcare is essential to supporting working families, effective funding management requires ongoing monitoring, State and Smart Start funds work together to expand services, and strong fiscal oversight helps counties serve as many families as possible. Nicole did ask if the board would be able to approve or modify the Subsidized Childcare Funding Plan Prioritization.

Motion: A motion was made by Mary Accor with a second by Robert Miller to approve the proposed Subsidized Childcare Funding Plan Prioritization. The motion carried unanimously.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION PRESENTATION:

Chair Karner introduced Megan Homan with the World Elder Abuse Prevention Presentation. Megan began by explaining that World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is planned for June 15, 2026, with the theme being "Hands, Hearts, Action". WEAAD provides an opportunity for communities to promote awareness and understanding of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elder adults. Cleveland County ranks 29th in the State for the highest total population of elder adults. We rank 30th in the State for adults age 65 and up, and our population age 60+ is expected to increase 26% by 2042. Adult protective services receive reports to evaluate the need for protective services. Plans are made with adult and/or caregivers to identify and prevent abuse,

neglect, and exploitation and mobilize essential services on behalf of the adult, if necessary. APS initiates court action as necessary to protect the adult, and reports evidence of maltreatment to the District Attorney and various regulatory agencies. Signs of elder abuse include dehydration or unusual weight loss, unexplained injures, torn, stained, or bloody underclothing, unattended medical needs, and unexplained sexually transmitted diseases. There are also emotional and behavioral signs that include increased fear or anxiety, isolation from friends or family, unusual changes in behavior or sleep, and withdrawal from normal activities. There are financial signs that include fraudulent signatures on financial documents, unusual or sudden changes in spending patterns, and unpaid bills. Governor Stein will present the WEAAD proclamation on June 15, and here at DSS we are wearing purple on that day to help raise awareness for World Elder Abuse Day. We will be meeting out front for a photo at 10 AM on June 15 and ask that anyone that can or would like to attend please join us. Megan did open the floor to any questions. Mary made the comment that it would be interesting to know the birth rate in Cleveland County since we have such a high population of elder adults. Megan said that the fastest growing age group is 85 and older. Our elder community is a rapidly growing community.

FY 2026/2027 BUDGET:

Chair Karner introduced Tiffany Hansen with the Cleveland County Human Services Agency Fiscal Year 2026/2067 Budget. Tiffany did review the Basic Budget Summary that included insurance and dental rates remaining similar, COLA and Retirement increased rates, and no additional Full Time Employees just repurposing existing vacancies. We do have some County Capital Requests that include one Ford F150 truck for Environmental Health and replacement vehicles for 9 of the DSS fleet. Tiffany explained that we will be transitioning to Enterprise Fleet for unmodified vehicles over the next few years, which will offer cost savings, safety and maintenance benefits. Tiffany also presented an overview of expenses for the Health Department and DSS. Among all departments at The Health Department, expenses total $14,391,612.00. Projected revenue to cover those expenses will come from Federal/State Grants, Medicaid monies, Medicare/other Misc. Revenue, and County Funds. Social Services expenses equal $24,546,512.00 across their program areas. There projected revenue sources are coming predominately from Federal, County, and State dollars. Tiffany went over the vacancies that we are actively recruiting for among The Health Department and DSS. The Health Department is currently recruiting for a dentist, 2 community health educators, 3 public health nurses, 1 LPN, a Accreditation and Resource Coordinator, a Physician Extender for Women's Health, and a Care Management Public Health Nurse. Social Services is currently recruiting two Social Workers for Child Permanency. In summary, the FY27 Health & Human Services budget is as follows: Total Budget: $38,938,124.00, Total Staff: Health=126 and Social Services=221, Total Revenue: $38,938,124.00 with County contributing $14,504,541.00, State/Federal contributing $17,238,544.00, and Other (insurances, etc.) contributing $7,195,039.00

SAYSO RECOGNITION:

Chair Karner introduced Rebecca Johnson with the SaySo Recognition. DSS Director Rebecca Johnson presented information to the Board recognizing Brooke Harper for her election to the 2026–2027 SaySo Young Adult Leadership Council. Ms. Johnson shared that Brooke, who was

formerly a child in Cleveland County's foster care program, was selected as one of only 33 young adults statewide to serve a one-year term representing the voices of youth with lived experience in substitute care. Ms. Johnson noted that Brooke's selection is a significant honor and a powerful reflection of what young people can achieve through perseverance, support, and determination. She further recognized the accomplishment as a positive reflection of the dedication and commitment of the Cleveland County Department of Social Services team in supporting children and helping them achieve success beyond foster care. The Board expressed its congratulations and appreciation for Brooke's outstanding achievement and the positive recognition it brings to Cleveland County. Mary asked if she could get in touch with Brooke to possibly attend the NCDSS conference. Rebecca informed Mary that she would have someone reach out to her in reference to her request. Danny asked how many adoptions have been finalized recently, and Rebecca answered that we had 4 in April.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chair Karner asked if there was any miscellaneous business that needed discussion. No one presented any additional business for discussion.

ADJOURN: 6:33 PM

There being no further business, Chair Karner called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Miller moved that the Cleveland County Consolidated Human Services Board meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary
Cleveland County Consolidated Human Services Agency