The Cleveland County Consolidated Human Services Board met on Tuesday, August 11, 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, Henry Gilmore, Nancy Cline, Allison Gragg, Suzanne Hensley, Maggie Hohne, Rick Dixon

Staff present: Tiffany Hansen, Andrea Power, Rebecca Johnson, Sherry Vess, Leslie McSwain, Nathan McNeilly, Anne Short, Alice Wilson, Elizabeth Ashburner, Yanet Cisneros

County Attorney present: Logan Roberts

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chair Sara Karner called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and welcomed everyone.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens were recognized.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR AUGUST 11, 2026, CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING:

Chair Karner presented the proposed agenda for the August 11, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

Motion: A motion was made by Marty Hamrick with a second by Robert Miller to adopt the agenda for August 11, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Karner presented the June 9, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting Minutes for consideration of approval.

Motion: A motion was made by Marty Hamrick with a second by Robert Miller to approve the June 9, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

CHILD SUPPORT PRESENTATION:

Chair Karner introduced Elizabeth Ashburner with the Child Support Presentation. Elizabeth began by explaining who can use child support services. Services are available to parents and nonparent caretakers of minor children. Clients can apply in person or online at ncchildsupport.ncdhhs.gov. A non-refundable $25 application fee is required, however; this may be reduced or waived depending on the applicant's income level. Families receiving public assistance (AFDC or Medicaid) are not charged an application fee. Child support offers services such as the location of non-custodial parents, establishment of

paternity, establishment and modification of child support orders, enforcement of child support orders, and collection and processing of court ordered child support payments. Child support obligation is determined based on standardized guidelines that consider the incomes of both parents, the needs of the child, what each parent contributes for the child and any responsibility of the parents for other children. The obligation is worksheet determined based on overnight visits with the minor child. Credit is given for pre-existing child support obligations, work-related childcare expenses, cost of the child's portion of insurance (if applicable), and necessary extraordinary expenses. Child support guidelines are reviewed every 4 years. During SFY 2025-2026 we opened 5,202 cases with 4,613 cases being under order and 589 cases in Locate or Establishment status. There were $8,016,700.30 total disbursed collections. We exceeded self-assessment goals in 6 out of 8 categories (following State trends). The child support department consists of 1 program manager, 2 supervisors, 1 paralegal, 2 lead agents, 12 agents and 1 processing assistant. We do like to incorporate our child support team into the community. In August of 2025 we completed a school supply drive for Elizabeth Elementary and in January 2026 we completed a school supply drive for Township #3 Elementary. We will also participate in National Night Out during the month of August and complete a personal hygiene item drive for children in CPS care. Elizabeth asked for any questions from the Board. Marty asked what AFDC stood for and Elizabeth answered that it stands for Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Kale asked if the receiving parent received all of the monies collected by the supporting parent. Elizabeth explained that a one-time $35 collection fee will come out of those funds.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT:

Chair Karner introduced Anne Short with the Community Health Improvement Plan Progress Report. An update was provided on the Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) addressing the priority areas of Teen Births and Drug Overdose Deaths.

Teen Births**:** Progress was reviewed on the five strategies addressing teen births. The **Strong** Teens Life Skills Program, based on the 3Rs curriculum of Rights, Respect, and Responsibility, served three high schools. A total of 563 students enrolled with active parental consent, with 483 students (85%) meeting the program threshold of attending at least 75% of classes.

The Strong Teens Youth Council continued to serve as the student advisory body for the program. The Council consisted of nine students from Cleveland Early College High School and held eight meetings during the 2025–2026 academic year. Members participated in and/or sponsored six community events and developed two social media messages highlighting the importance of reproductive health education for teens.

Efforts to provide reproductive health education in traditional and non-traditional settings were not fully completed during the 2025–2026 year due to staffing limitations. However, health educators continued to provide information at community events, including health fairs, and educational materials were shared with community partners.

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, which serves as the Community Advisory Council for the reproductive health and safety program, consists of 31 members and meets four times annually. The Coalition sponsored a feminine hygiene products drive that collected enough materials to assemble 996 kits for school nurses. A joint meeting was also held with the Strong Teens Youth Council to review the students' work and program satisfaction.

A community messaging campaign addressing teen pregnancies and teen births identified five priority issues, with an average of three to five messages developed for each issue. Messages were

shared through multiple communication channels, including the Health Department website and social media, school-specific parent newsletters, Health Department bulletin boards, and Community Advisory Council members' social media accounts.

Drug Overdose Deaths: Progress was also reviewed on strategies aimed at preventing substance use, reducing overdose deaths, and connecting residents with treatment and recovery resources. The evidence-based Too Good for Drugs substance use prevention curriculum was delivered at three sites, with 1,583 students participating. Updated alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug use data were not available due to insufficient survey participation following implementation of the Parents' Bill of Rights active consent requirement.

The Student Options and Redirection (SOAR) Program, which is designed to reduce out-of-school suspensions, enrolled 42 students during the 2025–2026 school year, with 71% completing all four program sessions.

The Lock Your Meds program continued to promote safe medication storage and disposal. A comprehensive messaging campaign reached 102,173 people. Additionally, three medication take-back events and seven community education events were held, and 119 medication lock boxes and 23 home medication disposal kits were distributed.

Recovery Connect Cleveland County continued to connect residents with recovery support services. During the reporting period, the program connected with 28 individuals seeking recovery support, made 512 contacts with individuals seeking support, and provided 153 referrals for services including treatment, housing, transportation, and other resources.

Naloxone distribution efforts also continued throughout Cleveland County, with 1,107 units of naloxone distributed through the Cleveland County Health Department drive-thru pharmacy. This number does not include naloxone distributed through PORT or Recovery Connect.

The Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) continued to provide follow-up and connections to services for Cleveland County residents following an overdose. PORT served 132 unique patients, with 8% of patients started on medication-assisted treatment.

CCHD BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

ITEM NUMBER ONE:

Cleveland County Health Department has received a one-time grant in the amount of $19,710.46 from Community Care of North Carolina, Inc. (CCNC). We request that these funds be budgeted in the Primary Care Department (550) and used towards patient engagement as well as expenses for our upcoming Healthy Habits community event.

Motion: A motion to recommend the proposed CCHD budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Henry Gilmore. The motion carried unanimously.

DSS BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

ITEM NUMBER ONE:

Session Law 2023-7/House Bill 76 provides support for counties during the continuous coverage unwinding and in preparation for Medicaid Expansion. Cleveland County has been awarded $367,780.95. We are requesting permission to budget this amount in Economic Services (508) Department.

ITEM NUMBER TWO:

Session Law 2026-1/House Bill 696 provides a one-time off-cycle distribution of funding to support the implementation of HR1. Cleveland County has been awarded $454,137.66. We are requesting permission to budget this amount in Economic Services (508) Department.

ITEM NUMBER THREE:

We have received $187.250 for Adoption Promotion Funds that cover adoptions completed between June 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026. We are requesting to budget for this amount in the Social Work (504) Department.

ITEM NUMBER FOUR:

Partners has allocated $14,000 to be utilized for travel expenses for Cleveland County DSS staff. These travel expenses shall be limited to mandatory visitations for DSS-involved children and adolescents who are placed in treatment facilities outside of North Carolina. Eligible expenses include but are not limited to travel, airfare, hotels, meals, and parking. We request permission to budget this amount in Social Work (504) Department.

ITEM NUMBER FIVE:

Partners has allocated $21,000 to be utilized to cover the cost of a Part-Time Community Social Services Assistant. This position will assist with facilitation of supervised visits with children and families, provide transportation to any necessary medical, mental health, or dental appointments, and prepare documentation after direct support services. We request permission to budget this amount in Social Work (504) Department.

Motion: A motion to recommend the proposed DSS budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Henry Gilmore. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chair Karner asked if there was any miscellaneous business that needed discussion. Tiffany did let the board know that our Harvest Healthy Habits event is planned for September 19 at the Health Department and a flyer for the event will be emailed to all board members. Sara asked if we will be offering flu shots during this time and Tiffany did let Sara know that we will not have them vaccines in house by the time the event takes place.

Tiffany also expressed her gratitude to Sara for helping the Health Department recruit our new in-house dentist. Meleuh Fobellah will begin employment with us at the end of August.

ADJOURN: 6:43 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