

 **Virtual**

**Advocacy & Issues Management Committee**

**Committee Leads: Geoff Marett (Craven County), Christine Dowdell (Johnston County) & Amanda McGee (Cherokee County), & Matthew Hillman (Lincoln County)**

**December 13, 2023**

 **8:30AM – 9:30AM**

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| Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83778631076?pwd=LSCqaCouyrXYzBl7lheXKBjHv1bgaP.1>Meeting ID: 837 7863 1076Passcode: 060688Dial-in Number: 646 931 3860 |
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**Meeting Minutes**

**November Meeting Minutes**

**Approved with all voting yes.**

**Child Welfare Plan**

Geoff described the Child Welfare changes work product developed by the advocacy Committee chairs with the input from Directors from the Association. Geoff stated will send it out after Executive Committee reviews. On the topic of from Hospital -

**Children in Emergency**

**Departments and Cost**

Amanda McGee gave an update about the hospital threatening to file an order to make CCDSS pay for placement of a child. Hospital was billing Medicaid but threatened to submit the order for the above the top costs. Geoffrey talked about expanding on what we are already doing to advocate for work done by DSS agencies and tracking administrative costs associated with children in DSS offices for advocacy purposes.

Matt asked if there were any success stories – Mcgee described working with LE and the hospital via a local Interagency Coalition and relationships and collaborative efforts have been very good. – Matt described a similar effort – back and forth discussion - Trish – shared a positive result of collaboration and communication when they had the closure or near closure, a lot of children wound up at the hospital. She shared that the hospital was upset not at DDSS but because they had needed resources that were tied up taking away from other work. The LME – Sandhills / Trillion ? paid for security and the hospital saw that as a positive message that we want to work together -. They had greater success.

Tracie Murphy – gave an update on the merger of LME/CEO – Counties with Sandhills – folding into East Point who will take over sandhills counties – effective Jan 1 2024. Shared a concern that it is hard to educate families on resources that are available to educate everyone on resources when things change so rapidly. Tracie mentioned that she has gotten support for unusual things with her LME and is apprehensive about the big conglomerate and how it will work. Trish corrected the effective date of the merger is 2/1/24 not Jan 1 2024

**Child Care Advocacy**

Amanda Mcgee and Patrick Betancourt described disparity in child care market rate. the differences between the rates for rural counties is much lower than larger metropolitan counties. Geoff mentioned that – there doesn’t seem to be one entity to advocate regarding the rates. Sharnese stated that she believes the Association or specific Directors should advocate with the Child Care State-wide Association because they can help lobby the State and the General Assembly as market rates are set in legislation. Market rates are always behind – NC needs to get caught up and establish higher rates. Felisa mentioned that child care subsidy rates in larger counties are much higher than hers. Felisa also mentioned that there is a marked decrease of infant care and she is having discussions about that. Geoff - stated that he reached out to DCDEE and while it has only been a little over a week – have not gotten a response, Geoff wrote another email this morning at 8:55 AM. Elizabeth then wrote back trying to join today’s meeting and Geoff informed her that it had already adjourned. She then stated she would join next week, and then wrote back again stating that their COMMS team is working on the issue and asked to push back a meeting until January. Geoff offered the next Advocacy meeting on Jan 10th and as of yet we have no answer. (GOOD WORK GEOFF!) –

**Adult Services (CAP)**

Matt -

Felissa - DHB - - Bobby Sigmund did respond back to Rena Brown – There was push back on adult services in utilizing MAC to use case management – Felissa stated that they use mac. Stated CAP DA is also case management along with direct services - - that is what loved ones want to keep their loved ones in home – we may have to place adults in long term care because of self -neglect when an appropriate array of services is not in place for our adults. There needs to be more discussion with DHB and Div Adult Services – get services back into the community – We must try to keep adults in the community.

**Bill Tracker**

 **Not a lot of updates – Not much is happening in the legislature.**

 **ADJOURN**

**Geoff motion – Tracie – second – With all in favor, the meeting adjourned.**