

Pittsylvania County Department of Social Services

Board Meeting: Monday, October 27, 2025, at 5:45P

Location: Arlene Creasy Annex, 220 H. G. McGhee Dr., Chatham, Virginia 24531

Call to Order

Ms. Nancy Eanes called the meeting of the Pittsylvania County Local Board of Social Services (herein referred to as LBSS) to order at 5:46P.

Invocation

Led by Mr. Charles Cameron

Membership Roll Call

Regina Barger, Secretary/Director, called the roll. In attendance were:

Ms. Nancy Eanes, Chair

Mr. Charles Cameron, Vice Chair

Ms. Lynn Dawson

Mr. Darrell Dunford

Mr. Jim Searce

Mr. Barry Sides

Mr. Robert Storey

Led by the motion of Mr. Searce, second by Mr. Cameron, and a roll call vote with all members saying "yes", Mr. Dudley's absence is excused.

Guest(s): Matt Evans, Gravitt Law

Approval of the Agenda

Led by the motion of Mr. Sides and second by Mr. Cameron, the revised agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes

Led by the motion of Mr. Sides and second by Mr. Cameron, the LBSS accepted the minutes of the September 15, 2025, LBSS meeting.

Approval of the 09/2025 Expenditures

Led by the motion of Mr. Dunford and second by Mr. Sides, the LBSS approved the September 2025 expenditures.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

- A. Local Agency Policy - Leave – Ms. Barger reported the State provided guidance that there can be no limitations put on leave. Although there are no limitations that can be added to policy, the supervisor can deny leave based on the agency need, if there is abuse of leave, or if there is no leave available, among additional reasons.
- B. Local Review Team – Ms. Barger reported Local Budget Reviews completed by the State are not provided as statistical reports, therefore, cannot be compared by agency. Ms. Barger provided an example of the report listed on the agency Fusion page that is published quarterly and gives an overview of all non-compliance errors found during reviews of local agencies, along with the recommendation and corrective action. Agencies are not named in the report, but it is posted for agencies to use as a learning tool.
- C. IV-E Quality Assurance – Ms. Barger reported the State determined two foster homes certified by Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA) were out of compliance for a period while our agency had children placed in the homes. The certificates provided by the LCPAs appeared the homes were in compliance, but there were certain requirements not met prior to the certificates, that made them invalid. Due to this, any IV-E federal money paid to the LCPAs must be returned using local agency funds. Ms. Barger will speak with the LCPA after the funds are repaid to IV-E to request at least half of the expense to be reimbursed to DSS from the LCPA, as this error was not caught by the LCPA, the State licensing department, nor DSS staff. If Ms. Barger is unable to resolve this directly with the LCPA, Gravitt Law will then assist.

Led by the motion of Mr. Searce, second by Mr. Cameron, and roll call of all present members saying “yes”, the LBSS agreed to use the balance of the DSS discretionary account fund (from Dominion Energy Share) prior to using local money to repay the IV-E federal expense.

New Business

- A. Impact of Federal Shutdown – Ms. Barger reported due the federal shutdown, SNAP benefits cannot be issued for the month of November. The Governor has approved State General Funds to be used to supplement food benefits, but guidance has not been provided to DSS agencies as to how the program will work as of this date. There is concern for the safety of staff due to the uncertainty of how recipients will react either to not receiving benefits or receiving a fraction.
- The LBSS discussed the concerns of safety for staff and recommended Ms. Barger contact Sheriff Taylor and inquire about having security present in the lobby during the first week of November.
- B. SNAP Forward – Ms. Barger provided a PowerPoint from the 10/14/25 State meeting, which is updated weekly. It includes ongoing activities, key accomplishments, planned activities and action items for SNAP error reduction efforts.
 - C. Organizational Chart/Vacancies – Ms. Barger reported there are currently 14 vacancies. She also reported interviews were recently completed for the BPS I positions and there are 3 finalists. The posting remains open until filled and the goal is to interview every 2-3 weeks until the positions are filled. The HSA III posting has ended, and interviews will be conducted next week. The Assistant Director I position posted

10/26/2025. Ms. Barger reported the Benefit Programs Manager position is on hold while she assesses the performance and needs of the benefit programs team.

- D. Department Statistics – Ms. Barger provided agency statistics for Benefit Programs and Family Services, along with the Agency Budget Balance Report from VDSS with a breakdown of all budget lines. Additionally, Ms. Barger provided Summary of Quality Control (QC) Reviews by Local Agency, posted May 2025, which is the most recent report available. For this reporting period, QC reviewed one case and found no errors. Ms. Barger also provided and explained the Quality Control Findings Report that gives detail of the case reviewed in addition to the report, Top Ten Error Elements, which provides the cause of each case that had a dollar error throughout the State.
- E. Agency Updates – Ms. Barger reported constituent, Kim Chism, coordinated a toy run to collect monetary and toy donations for children in Pittsylvania Co. and the event was held on Saturday, 10/25/25. Two staff members joined me at the event around 8:30 and we assisted with wristbands and collecting toys. The toy run collected almost \$1200, along with 3 boxes of toys.

Ms. Barger reported a foster parent licensed by an LCPA is requesting the agency to either replace or repair flooring that one of our foster children scratched by accident. This expense is not a requirement for DSS, but the foster parent has threatened legal action against Pittsylvania Co. DSS. Normally, foster parents are to submit claims to their homeowner's insurance, but this individual has already submitted several claims in the past and is no longer allowed to submit further claims. The child will turn 18 in November, and the placement will end with the foster parent. Ms. Barger states she has already discussed this matter with Attorney, Mr. Evans, and learned the foster parent can seek civil action against the child that caused the damage. If the foster parent pursues legal action against the foster youth, the matter will be brought back to the LBSS for discussion.

Motion to Convene in Closed Meeting

Led by the motion of Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Searce, and roll call of all present members saying "yes", the LBSS agreed to convene in closed session at 7:56P.

Items for Discussion

- A. Foster Care
- B. Personnel

Motion to Vacate Closed Meeting and Reconvene in Open Session

Led by the motion of Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Searce, and roll call of all present members saying "yes", the LBSS agreed to vacate the closed session and reconvene in open session at 8:57P. Certification of the closed meeting was read by Mr. Cameron.

Action Following Closed Meeting/Motion

Led by the motion of Mr. Searce, second by Mr. Cameron, and roll call of all present members saying “yes”, the LBSS approved the following Foster Care actions:

Open – 21131190

20962494

Closed – 21242799

21187612

21187612

Led by the motion of Mr. Dunford, second by Mr. Cameron, and roll call of all present members saying “yes”, the LBSS approved to amend the Gravitt Law MOU to reflect a 3% raise effective 1/1/2026.

Adjournment

Ms. Eanes announced the next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Monday, November 17, 2025, at 5:45P. Following a motion by Mr. Searce, second by Mr. Dunford, and by concurrence that there was no further business to discuss, the LBSS adjourned at 9:00P.



LBSS Board Chair



Secretary/Director