

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** February 15, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** Social Services' Informational Update  
**PRESENTER:** Spence Campbell, Vice-Chair, DSS Board  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

At the suggestion of Commissioner Edney, the DSS Board is providing monthly three-minute informational updates to the Board of Commissioners regarding various Social Services issues. The February 2012 update, provided by DSS Board Vice-Chair Spence Campbell, pertains to helping the elderly age successfully at home.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

No Board action requested. This item is for information only.

**Suggested Motion:**

*No motion suggested.*

Good Morning. I am Spence Campbell, Vice Chair of the Social Services Board of Henderson County. I am here to present the second in our series of topics on the role of DSS in our community. We appreciate the support of the Board of Commissioners for this series of presentations as part of our efforts to educate the public and advocate for the state-mandated role of DSS.

Today I will be speaking about our efforts to help the elderly remain in their homes as they age, something most seniors prefer over going to a long term care facility. DSS is doing what it can to support this option as it obviously enhances the quality of life for individuals and reduces the overall cost of providing care for them. A report prepared in 2007 for the General Assembly by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services comparing adult care home costs to at-home costs found Medicaid costs were 29% lower at home and prescription drug costs were 32% lower at home.

In addressing this issue, DSS has partnered with the Council on Aging to create the Partnership for Independent Living, which is a collaborative county government, private non-profit partnership case management service model that delays or eliminates the institutionalization of older persons regardless of income. The objectives of the Partnership for Independent Living include:

1. Delaying or preventing institutionalization.
2. Coordinating and maximizing use of limited private and public funding
3. Strengthening service through collaborative use of resources and staff
4. Advocating for broad-based community awareness and support of older persons wanting to age in place.
5. Valuing the older person's choice and right to self-determination.

Case managers provide information and assistance, conduct assessments, develop case plans, arrange services, connect the person and/or family to community resources and make regular home visits. Referrals come from county service providers, family, neighbors, Meals on Wheels and DSS Adult Protective Services.

In FY 09/10, 93% of out-of-home placements were delayed by 6-12 months or prevented all together; case management services provided by DSS and Council on Aging went from 50% duplication to 0%; and 100% of the clients of the partnership were supported by a mutual service plan between the client and the case manager.

Funding for COA included a three-year Melvin R. Lane grant and locally generated revenue from COA fundraising and their thrift shop. DSS funding includes county and federal revenues.

Although early in its existence, this DSS/COA initiative is having a major positive impact on the lives of older persons in our community while reducing costs. It is the only such cooperative public/private venture in North Carolina. As such, it is attracting attention from other counties and it holds great promise for continuing to improve the lives of the citizens of Henderson County. Thank you for your interest and support. I would be glad to take any questions.