

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** March 21, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** Social Services' Informational Update  
**PRESENTER:** Don Cooper, Member, 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 March 2012 update, provided by DSS Board member Don Cooper, pertains to the issue of Child Care Subsidy services in Henderson County.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

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

**Suggested Motion:**

*No motion suggested.*

Good Morning. I am Don Cooper, member of the Social Services Board of Henderson County. I am here to present the third 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 Child Care Subsidy services to Henderson County children.

- In FY 2010-11, 1379 children were served with \$3,570,985 (100% federal/state funding). Child Care Subsidy can best be viewed by dividing into two parts: preschool age children and school age children.
- FY 2010-11, 70% of the children served were preschool age; though the county pays the provider, parents can choose between 71 licensed sites.
- Only Child Care Subsidy can pay for the care of a school-age child, up to age 12 (Head Start, Smart Start and More-At-Four are limited to preschool age children). In FY 2010-11, 30% of the children served were school age children in thirteen public school PSAM, PSPM and summer programs; Child Care Subsidy children accounted for over \$610,000 of the school's afterschool program budget.
- The best way to improve schools is to improve the children we send to school. Early childhood education, supported by Child Care Subsidy, can lead to: (a) success in school; and, (b) less costs to the community and schools in remedial services. The building blocks for success in school are built by a child's experience in the first years of his or her life. In addition to improving developmental outcomes for children, Child Care Subsidy supports parents with affordable child care so they can succeed at work.
- In addition to paying for school age children, the Child Care Subsidy Program is unique in that parents help with costs. Parents contributed \$609,000 to the cost for their child care in FY 2010-11; 77% of parents work and put their money back into the local economy and pay taxes.
- The Community Foundation of Henderson County and the Board of Social Services established a one-stop shop collaborative in the mid-1990's. DSS funded the Child Care Resource and Referral program with an Appalachian Regional Council (ARC) grant. The collaboration co-locates several programs at one site for parents, such as Child Care Resource & Referral, DSS Child Care Subsidy Program and Smart Start. When the Children & Family Resource Center of Henderson County opened its doors, the collaboration was significantly strengthened.
- The Board of Social Services is greatly concerned about recent funding cuts: the state cut \$350,000 in FY 11-12 and \$620,000 in FY 12-13 for a total of \$970,000. Beginning June 2012, 145 less children can be served with Child Care Subsidy assistance.
- As a proactive measure, the Board of Social Services is strategically working with our community partners to advocate for and support increased access to quality child care in Henderson County.

Thank you for your interest and support. I would be glad to take any questions.