

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2018 MEETING

The Henderson County Board of Social Services conducted their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 at 12:00 PM in the East Conference Room (C2104) of the Human Services Building. Present from the Board were Chair Penny Summey, Vice-Chair Dr. Jennifer Hensley, John Boyd, Frank Wilson and Tyra Kirby. Present from the DSS staff were Jerrie McFalls (Director), Kevin Marino (Social Work Program Administrator), Joe Maxey (Administrative Officer), and Karen Vale (Clerk to the Board). Sandy Morgan (Economic Services Program Administrator) was absent, with regrets.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM by Chair Summey.

Public Input: None

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: No changes/corrections were requested. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Dr. Hensley seconded the motion. All present were in favor, the minutes were approved.

Directors Report (Attachment I): Director McFalls reviewed her report of HC DSS accomplishments in 2017. She added that the training initiative for child welfare has slowed due to staffing changes with Buncombe County DSS, but we are still on track to have a launch of the first simulation lab in the spring. Regarding succession planning in Economic Services, job postings have been sent out to hire (2) Income Maintenance Supervisor 3's to support the new structure and provide support to Program Administrator Morgan. The postings will close on January 26th.

Director McFalls reviewed the January Employees of the Month (**Attachment II**) and asked Mr. Marino to share about Ms. Benjamin and Mrs. Roof.

Director McFalls then highlighted several areas of the December Statistical Report (**Attachment III**). Child Only Work First cases are down for this month, but are difficult to predict based on client need. Medicaid cases, applications and number of clients are up due to increased needs. CPS Investigations Initiated is down, which is typical for December as more children are out on vacations. CPS In-Home Case Management is up as staff work to keep more families together, instead of DSS taking custody and moving the child (ren) into Foster Care. The number of children in custody is down, multiple adoptions were finalized. Chair Summey asked if there were any areas of concern for the Director. Mrs. McFalls replied that the Child Day Care statistics are a concern at the moment. The enrollment and revenue has continued to go down; the allocation from the State of North Carolina needs to be spent to ensure continued funding at this level for next year. HC DSS does not want to leave funds unspent. When Child Day Care moved in the NC FAST system several months ago, some providers began encountering issues of overpayment and underpayment for the services they are providing. This leads to uncertainty when reviewing the statistics for this program. Dr. Hensley asked about feedback from the providers regarding the move to NC FAST. Director McFalls stated that the providers are receiving their payments, some are underpaid and some are overpaid based on what they reported to the State. Child care centers in Henderson County are keeping good records and have been contacted by DSS staff for follow-up.

Finally, Director McFalls reviewed the Second Quarter Personnel Report (**Attachment IV**). Highlights included overall turnover rate at 5.38%, and rate without retirements is 4.84%. These figures are lower than the two previous fiscal years for the same period. HC DSS currently has four social worker vacancies, one clerical support vacancy, and four income maintenance caseworker vacancies.

Program Administrators Reports (Attachment V): Social Work Program Administrator Marino reviewed his report. Chair Summey asked for an explanation of HC DSS's working relationship with SPARC. Director McFalls shared that SPARC provides family centered treatment to our clients. They work one-on-one with the families, in their homes to ensure children remain in the home or are placed back in the home after foster care. HC DSS has a contract with SPARC for these services, and have been utilizing this option for three years.

The dates for the first annual review of the Program Development Plan have been set: February 19-21.

NC FAST for Child Welfare has been delayed due to software issue until November 2018 for Henderson County. The kick-off has been postponed to a later date.

Point-In-Time Study – Mr. Marino shared information about the upcoming Point-In-Time study focusing on homelessness in Henderson County. The study takes place in January because the cold weather facilitates people going to the shelters, and the count is more efficient than trying to cover all the various camps that pop up in the warmer weather. Dr. Hensley asked if there are guidelines/policies in place for law enforcement to manage the impact of the homeless people on Main Street. Data from the study is shared with county and city management to begin the conversation on how to tackle this issue. There are law enforcement personnel on the Homeless Coalition, so they are part of the group conducting the study. Mr. Marino will report back in February on the outcome of the event. Mr. Boyd shared that he can assist homeless veterans through his volunteer work in the community.

Mr. Marino shared his "Social Work Programs Year in Review" chart (**Attachment VI**).

Director McFalls reviewed the Economic Services Program Administrator Report due to the absence of Mrs. Morgan. She highlighted that 36,000 people out of the 116,173 that live in Henderson County are receiving some assistance through HC DSS. This equates to 20,950 cases being worked by the approximately 80 staff.

Administrative Officer Maxey made two corrections to his report. Bullet #2 should be 6 month YTD spending; and Bullet #7 should read: When the Health Department has also finished NIXLE

The county wide budget workshop will be held tomorrow, January 17th, during the regular HC Commissioners meeting. The funds approved for purchases related to NC FAST for Child Welfare will roll into the next budget year with the delay of Henderson County's move into the NC FAST program.

Focus Area Updates: Chair Summey asked if there were any new updates to the topic areas.

- Dr. Hensley – Child Welfare/CCPT: None
- Mr. Wilson – Diversity/Minority: The annual Dr. Martin Luther King breakfast was held at Blue Ridge Community College, over 300 in attendance.

- Mr. Boyd – Housing/Sustainability: None
- Mrs. Kirby – Aging/COA (input from Program Manager Hill): Mrs. Kirby provided a handout “Meals on Wheels Update” for the board (**Attachment VIII**).
- Mrs. Summey – Mental Health/Substance Abuse: County management staff are looking into increasing mental health services for employees through the Wellness Center.

New Business

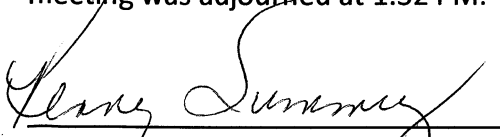
- 2018 Meeting Schedule*: The board members reviewed the proposed 2018 meeting schedule (**Attachment IX**). Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the meeting schedule, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. All board members present were in favor, the meeting schedule was approved. Karen will post schedule to DSS Web page.
- Acceptance of Duke Endowment Grant*: The board member reviewed the grant award letter dated 12/5/17 (**Attachment X**). Dr. Hensley made a motion to approve the grant awarded to HC DSS, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. All board members present were in favor. Director McFalls will notify Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley of the board’s approval.

Old Business: None

The Board moved into a closed session pursuant to NCGS §143.318.11(a)(6) at 1:15 pm on a motion from Mr. Boyd, seconded by Dr. Hensley.

The Board came out of closed session at 1:31 pm on a motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Boyd.

Next Meeting and Adjournment: Chair Summey reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 at 12:00 PM. Dr. Hensley made motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, and all present were in favor. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 PM.


Penny Summey, Chair


Jerrie McFalls, Director/Secretary to the Board

:JGM

Attachments:

- I. Director’s Report (January 2018)
- II. Employees of the Month (January 2018)
- III. Statistical Report (December 2016 – December 2017)
- IV. FY 2018 Second Quarter Personnel Report (October – December 2017)
- V. Program Administrators Report (January 2018)
- VI. Social Work Programs Year In Review
- VII. FY17-18 Six Month Report (July - December 2017)
- VIII. Meals on Wheels Update (12/18/2017)
- IX. 2018 Henderson County Board of Social Services Proposed Meeting Schedule
- X. The Duke Endowment Grant Award Letter (12/5/17)