

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2017 MEETING

The Henderson County Board of Social Services conducted their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 12:00 PM in the East Conference Room (C2104) of the Human Services Building. Present from the Board were Chairperson Penny Summey, Vice-Chair Melinda Lowrance, Dr. Jennifer Hensley and Tyra Kirby. Present from the staff were Jerrie McFalls (Director), Kevin Marino (Social Work Program Administrator), Sandy Morgan (Economic Services Program Administrator), and Karen Vale (Clerk to the Board). Board member John Boyd and Administrative Officer Joe Maxey were absent, with regrets. Mr. Frank Wilson, newly appointed board member from the Social Services Commission was also present. His term will begin on July 1, 2017, and he will be sworn in at the July meeting.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM by Chair Summey.

Public Input: None

Adjustments to the Agenda: There were no adjustments to the agenda, Chair Summey welcomed Mr. Wilson to the board and shared that after the July meeting he would be scheduled for board orientation with the Director and Program Administrators.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 18, 2017 meeting were approved on motion from Dr. Hensley, seconded by Vice-Chair Lowrance; all present were in favor. The minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting were approved on a motion from Dr. Hensley, and seconded by Vice-Chair Lowrance; all present were in favor.

Director's Report (Attachment I): Director McFalls reviewed her report; adding that VAYAHealth (formerly Smoky Mountain LME/MCO) covers 23 counties in Western North Carolina and that the list of Community Reinvestment Initiatives Not Funded in FY 17/18 (**Attachment II**) are all direct service programs. Director McFalls has been working with Buncombe County Director Mandy Stone and several other WNC DSS Directors to reach out to VAYAHealth and make a plan of services in WNC. Regarding the future of the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG), Director McFalls reminded the board that this is the grant that helps fund the Council on Aging and President Trump has not included SSBG in his budget. Chair Summey stated that if there are no Federal funds for the mandated services that the SSBG covers, more funds will have to come from the counties. Director McFalls does have talking points available regarding SSBG and its impact, she will email to all board members before the end of the week. Finally, additional information was provided regarding the inclusion of House Bill 608/Senate Bill 594 into House Bill 630, Rylan's Law/Family/Child Protection and Accountability Act. Henderson County DSS routinely completes more than two home visits before allowing a child in DSS custody to be returned to their home.

Director McFalls highlighted the June Employees of the Month (**Attachment III**).

The May Statistical Report (**Attachment IV**) was reviewed. Director McFalls shared that Work First Employment Cases continue to decline, which is the goal. Child Support collections are up by 21.3% over the prior 12 months, CPS In-Home cases continue to decline, and CPS Children in Custody is also down for the eighth straight month. Chair Summey asked about noticeable trends, a better fiscal year picture will be available with next month's report that will cover June 2016 – June 2017. Upcoming changes to Food and Nutrition and Day Care Subsidy application processing, that require concurrent case opening in Child Support Enforcement when applicable, will increase the caseload size for the child support enforcement agents, and additional staffing may be required. Director McFalls will keep the board informed as to the impact of these changes. When NC FAST absorbs the Day Care Subsidy programs, there may be an opportunity to reallocate a staff position to Child Support if needed.

Program Administrators Reports (Attachment IV): Social Work Program Administrator Marino reviewed his report. Dr. Hensley asked for an update on the Duke Endowment proposal. Mr. Marino reviewed that the proposal would fund a family based recovery program for Henderson County. After several meetings with staff from the endowment fund, the decision was made to submit the application for funding in December 2017. Mr.

Marino feels the request will be funded and we will be able to move forward with the program. Economic Services Program Administrator Morgan reviewed her report. Currently, the number of help desk tickets being submitted regarding Medicaid is on the rise. Staff is continuing to work within policy and NC FAST to keep these to a minimum. A recent visit by our Medicaid Program Consultant revealed that HC DSS is in the low risk category of concern, which will mean that visits only need to be done twice a year. Dr. Hensley asked if the continuing issues with NC FAST have been shared through the County Manager's office with their statewide associations. Director McFalls stated that staff at the County Manager's office has been kept apprised of the continuing issues with NC FAST. She spoke with Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley this morning regarding a section of the proposed NC State budget that would hold counties monetarily responsible for costs incurred if staff errors when processing a Medicaid application. If the error is found to be the responsibility of the State, no costs would be incurred by the county. Continuing issues with NC FAST programming would fall under the State. Director McFalls is aware the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is monitoring the bill and its impact on county funding. A vote is expected this week on the proposed State budget. Due to the absence of Administrative Officer Joe Maxey, Director McFalls reviewed his report.

Focus Area Updates: Chair Summey reminded the board about the article that appeared in the Sunday Times-News Community Page regarding the community support grant and the Child & Family Resource Center. She would like to continue to have articles every other month or so highlighting the work HC DSS does for the community. The next article will cover our continuing collaboration with the Council on Aging, target publication date of August or September. Chair Summey also shared her desire to discuss the focus areas and how they work with HC DSS during the next several DSS Board meetings as new members have been added and orientations taken place. Dr. Hensley discussed a concern she had that came out of the most recent CCPT/CFT meeting regarding children living with a biological parent that is a registered sex offender. Program Administrator Marino will schedule a meeting with Dr. Hensley to discuss the current laws pertaining to this situation. Dr. Hensley is planning to schedule a meeting with Senator Chuck McGrady regarding this issue.

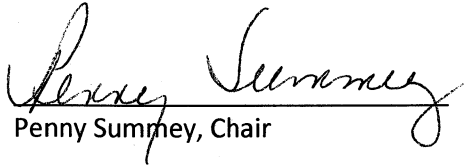
Old Business:

- Pending State Legislation: Director McFalls reviewed House Bill 513 which would set a higher State-County Special Assistance Rates for Adult Care Home residents and residents of Alzheimer's/Dementia special care units. HC DSS did budget \$275,000 additional for the provisions of this rate increase, but it appears that the increase will not go through this budget cycle. Director McFalls has alerted Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley to this change. Also reviewed was Senate Bill 546, Accuracy/Medicaid Eligibility Determinations, which discusses the State and County's responsibility if errors are made during eligibility determinations. This bill has been incorporated in the appropriations bill. The State legislature is hoping to be out of session by July 4th.
- DSS Board Vacancy Update: On June 14th the State Social Services Commission appointed Frank Wilson to fill the vacancy due to the departure of Vice-Chair Melinda Lowrance. He will be sworn in at the July Board meeting.

New Business:

- DSS Board FY 2017-2018 Nomination of Officers: Chair Summey opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming fiscal year. Vice Chair Lowrance nominated Penny Summey to continue as Chair and Dr. Hensley as Vice-Chair. Mrs. Kirby seconded the nominations. Chair Summey asked for any additional nominations, there were none. Both nominees agreed to serve. Board members will vote during the July Board Meeting. Several Board members will not be available to attend the scheduled meeting on July 18th, but would be available the week prior. The DSS Board will now hold the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 11th, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Clerk Karen Vale will notify all necessary personnel regarding this change.
- Recognition of Outgoing Board Member: Chair Summey recognized out-going Vice Chair Melinda Lowrance for her years of service to the Henderson County Board of Social Services and her on-going commitment to the citizens of the county. Mrs. Lowrance was presented with several plants and a certificate of appreciation.

Next Meeting and Adjournment: Chair Summey reminded the board that the next meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, July 11th at 10:00 AM, and motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Dr. Hensley seconded the motion, and all present were in favor. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.


Penny Summey, Chair


Jerrie McFalls, Director/Secretary to the Board

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Attachments:

- I. Director's Report (June 2017)
- II. VAYAHealth Community Reinvestment Initiatives Not Funded in FY 17-18
- III. Employees of the Month (June 2017)
- IV. Statistical Report (May 2016 – May 2017)
- V. Program Administrators Report (May 2017)
- VI. FY 16-17 11-Month YTD Expenses Report
- VII. NCACDSS Budget Tracker dated 6/16/17
- VIII. Times-News Article "Child Welfare Reform on Horizon" by Elisha Freeman dated 6/4/17