

## Henderson County Board of Social Services

### September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

#### A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Board Chair Dr. Jennifer Hensley at 12:06 pm.

Board Members Present	Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Chair Melinda Lowrance, Vice-Chair Tyra Kirby, Member Judy Smith, Member Margaret Stone, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board/Director Kevin Marino, Social Work Program Administrator Karen Vale, Clerk to the Board
Guests	Libby Myers, SWS 3 Team 2 – Foster Care Ginny Rector, Social Worker 3 Team 2 – Foster Care Dale Morgan, Community Member

#### B. Public Input

None

#### C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Dr. Hensley made an adjustment to agenda, moving the Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) from the end of the meeting to directly after the Board Education section. All board members present were in agreement.

#### D. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hensley asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting; there were none. Mrs. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed.

#### E. Board Education

SWS Myers and SW Rector presented to the board on current foster care numbers for Henderson County, the process of removing a child from the parent or caretaker, and steps during DSS custody. There are currently 129 children in HC DSS custody and 15 young adults in the Extended Foster Care/Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) program. Children come into DSS custody via three avenues: an investigation after a report has been called in, an immediate need through contact with law enforcement and the On-Call SW, or through the juvenile justice court process. Once a child has been placed in DSS custody several markers have to be met. There must be a meeting with biological parents and the foster parents within 3 days, the child must see a physician within 7 days and a second visit must take place within 30 days. If the child is in school, a meeting with staff from the school must also take place. Every effort is made to keep the child in their current school, but occasionally that cannot happen. If the child must be moved to a new school, DSS staff will meet with the staff at the new school prior to the child being placed there. HC DSS staff work from Day 1 to reduce the risk factors to the child, working with the parent to secure the services they need whether that is medical treatment, hospitalization, residential drug treatment program, housing assistance, etc. Simultaneously, the foster care worker will be working with the court system through the adjudication/disposition phase, adhering

to any court mandated services. Parents are sometimes resistant to following the court mandated services as part of their case plan, and the social worker must help them to see that this is the path for regaining custody of their child. A Family Services Agreement is completed with the mandated services and the steps parents must take sure have the child returned to their custody. The social worker and parent(s) sign the Agreement to ensure that all parties are aware of the steps. The mandated services must be completed. Reunification is usually the main goal for the first year, as the year progresses it may become apparent that reunification is not realistic, and the social worker will have to begin working on a concurrent plan regarding alternative placement for the child. That could be with another relative, with licensed foster parents, in a group home, etc. All involved parties look at what is in the best interests of the child.

Dr. Hensley thanked Ms. Myers and Mrs. Fox for providing the information and answering the board members questions. Mr. Morgan also expressed his appreciation for the work done by the foster care social workers. Both left the meeting at 12:30 PM.

The Board went into closed session at 12:31 PM on a motion from Mrs. Kirby and seconded by Mrs. Smith. The closed session is pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the laws of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

The Board reconvened the open session of the meeting at 1:06 PM on a motion from Vice-Chair Lowrance, seconded by Chair Hensley.

**F. Reports**

**Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)**

Director McFalls reminded the Board that a full State budget has not passed the legislature. After the veto by the Governor, it was sent back to the Senate and the House. The House voted to override the veto on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019; but the Senate has not voted on an override of the veto.

**September Employees of the Month (Attachment II)**

No Discussion

**August 2018-August 2019 Statistical Report (Attachment III)**

No Discussion

**September Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)**

No Discussion

**G. Old Business**

**Medicaid Transformation**

The program does not have funding without an approved State budget, but work it still being done to prepare the County for our rollout with Phase 2.

### **Future Space Renovation**

County Engineer Dave Berry will be addressing the HC Commissioners at the meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> about the planned renovation. County staff are reviewing the Uniform Guidance Policy to ensure compliance.

### **IM Administrator 2 Update**


Director McFalls announced that Jillian Humphries has been hired as our new IM Program Administrator 2. Ms. Humphries has most recently been working at Buncombe County DSS and has also worked for Polk County DSS. She will begin her new position on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **H. New Business**

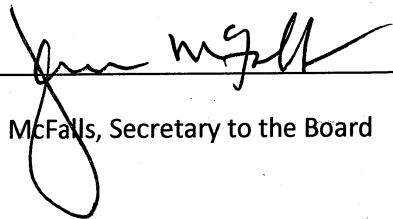
**None**

### **I. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Vice-Chair Lowrance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Smith seconded the motion, all present were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Chair      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board      Date

### **Attachments:**

- I. Director's Report – September 2019
- II. September Employees of the Month
- III. August 2018 – August 2019 Statistical Report
- IV. Program Administrator's Report – September 2019
- V. In-Home Aide Recertification Letter 9/9/19
- VI. Child Support County Visit Results Letter 8/22/19
- VII. DSS Staff Committee Assignments 8/30/19
- VIII. FY 19-20 2-Month YTD Budget Summary