

Henderson County Board of Social Services

August 17th, 2020 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 12:01 pm.

Board Members Present	Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Chair Melinda Lowrance, Vice-Chair Judy Smith, Member Margaret Stone, Member (Via Phone) Josh Simpson, Member (Via Phone)
Staff Leadership Present	Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board/Director Lorie Horne, Social Work Program Administrator Karen Vale, Clerk to the Board
Guest	None

B. Oath of Office – Melinda Lowrance

Clerk Karen Vale administered the oath of office to Melinda Lowrance based on her appointment to the Board by the Social Services Commission on July 29, 2020. Her term will expire on June 30, 2023.

C. Public Input

None

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

E. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hensley asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the June 16th, 2020 regular meeting; Mrs. Smith alerted the members to a correction under I: New Business – Energy Outreach Plan for FY 20-21. Program Administration Jillian Humphries needs to be changed to Program Administrator Jillian Humphries. Karen will make the correction and have the minutes ready for signature at the September meeting. Vice-Chair Lowrance made a motion to approve the minutes with the above reference change, Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All board members were individually polled for their vote. All approved and the motion carried.

F. Reports

Director’s Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Dr. Hensley asked if there were any questions regarding the Director’s report. Director McFalls introduced Lorie Horne as the new Program Administrator for Social Work, replacing Kevin Marino.

August Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

No Discussion

July 2019-July 2020 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

No Discussion

August Program Administrator's Report

No Submissions

G. Old Business

COVID-19 Agency Impact

Dr. Hensley asked if DSS staff were encountering discrepancies in COVID-19 testing protocols? Director McFalls responded that we utilize the Henderson County Health Department as our resource for guidance on testing, isolation, quarantining and ability to return to work. We discuss each instance with County Risk Manager AnnMarie Calloway and make a decision specific to each situation. DSS has experienced staff receiving different guidance from the Health Department than Ms. Calloway received but that has been attributed to the DSS staff member sharing different information with the Health Department. DSS has had one staff test positive for COVID-19, and that office was professionally cleaned and sanitized by a vendor arranged through the Facility Services Department. Mrs. Stone shared that to be tested through the County Health Department, you must be exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Director McFalls added that there have been 56 deaths in Henderson County, 50 of those were residents of a long-term care facilities.

Mrs. Smith asked about status of in-person attendance at Immaculata Catholic School, Dr. Hensley replied that classes will start in-person on 9/8/20. Students will have their temperatures taken upon check-in, masks will be worn, and social distancing guidelines observed. There will also be an air purifier in every room. Mrs. Smith added that the plans to start the school year virtually for Henderson County Public Schools has come with a variety of IT issues that have to be addressed. More connection hot spots are needed for the remote areas of the county.

Director McFalls shared that HC DSS has received 37 school accommodation requests from staff to work at home and/or modify their work schedule to be able to work with their child(ren) during this time. Management is currently looking at ways to support staff, especially those with children in the 5 – 8 years old category trying to ensure that the child is on-line completing their schoolwork while the parent completes DSS work. Staff are being held accountable through supervisor case reviews and monitoring incoming work. County management did explore the option of opening a day camp for staff children but then decided against moving forward. Several other options were mentioned: The Boys and Girls Club is currently full; YMCA is hosting a day camp and scholarships are available; Elks organization may be opening a day camp for 75 -100 participants; the Salvation Army is also looking at starting a day camp. DSS staff were polled when they completed their school accommodation request about their willingness to utilize a day camp for their children during this time. The staff responded in a variety of ways, some yes, some no, and some said it depended on the facility. For staff that are home with children due to school closure and will be unable to complete their DSS work, E-PSLA and E-FMLA will be available based on the guidelines from the Federal government and Henderson County. We are trying to keep as many as possible working and reduce the usage of either leave program. Laptops and desktop computers have been set up for the staff working from home. Inventory of those items is being monitored by IT.

Mrs. Smith asked the staff to explain the Work First program, Director McFalls shared the history of the program and the goal to get people back to work. It's now called Work First Employment, and it helps clients remove the barriers that is keeping them from working. Once a client is working, the payments stop.

Sometimes clients go to Blue Ridge Community College to complete certifications, sometimes they go straight to work.

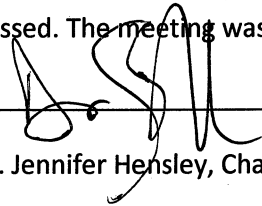
H. New Business

Henderson County Child Care Prioritization Policy FY 20-21* (Attachment IV)

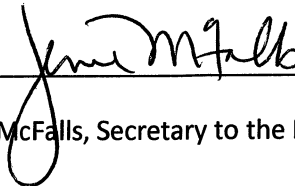
Director McFalls explained the purpose behind the prioritization policy and asked if there were any questions. None were presented. Mrs. Smith motioned for the Board to approve the Henderson County Child Care Prioritization Policy FY 20-21, Vice-Chair Lowrance seconded the motion. All board members were polled individually for their vote, all approved. The motion passed; Karen will let the Child Care staff know that the policy has been approved.

I. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Vice-Chair Lowrance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Stone seconded the motion; all members were individually polled for their vote. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 pm.



Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Chair Date

 9/15/2020

Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – August 2020
- II. August Employees of the Month
- III. July 2019 – July 2020 Statistical Report
- IV. Henderson County Child Care Prioritization Policy FY 20-21