

Henderson County Board of Social Services

June 18th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson at 12:01

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member Judy Smith, Member Rebecca McCall, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board/Director Lorie Horne, Social Work Program Administrator Melissa Novack, Finance Officer Debby Freeman, Economic Services Program Administrator Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk
Guest	Karen Ensley- Henderson County HR Director

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Simpson moved to remove board education and add a closed session at the beginning of the meeting.

Chair Simpson also voted to add nominations of officers to the agenda.

D. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gwaltney made a motion to approve the May 21st, 2024, open session minutes Mrs. Smith seconded, all members voted to approve. Mrs. Smith moved to approve the May 21st, 2024, closed session minutes, Mrs. McCall seconded, all members voted to approve the minutes.

E. Nomination of Officers:

Mrs. Lowrance made a motion to nominate Josh Simpson for Chair; Mrs. Smith seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Smith moved to nominate Stephen Gwaltney as vice-chair; Rebecca McCall seconded; all members voted to approve.

F. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Questions Only

Mr. Gwaltney asked about a short session summary. Director McFalls discussed the SB625 and the committee meetings. Director McFalls spoke about looking out for bills pertaining to DSS specifically.

Director McFalls let the board know that the county commissioners will be discussing the Memorandum of Understanding during the June 19th commissioners meeting. The previous MOU

had to be amended with a current date. Mrs. McCall stated that the MOU is on the consent agenda for the commissioners.

June Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

Questions only

None

May 2023- May 2024 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

Questions only

None

June Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Questions only

Mrs. Horne spoke about the new upcoming movie *Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot*. The movie is about a church taking in 77 foster children and the profound impact foster care has on children. The agency and the Foster Parent association are working with the theater to create an event for recruitment. Mr. Gwaltney asked if the agency has reached out to local churches to see if they would attend and promote the event. Mrs. Horne stated that the agency does have a list of local churches that we can reach out to. Chair Simpson discussed Biltmore Church and their community involvement in foster care and licensing classes.

Mr. Gwaltney asked if the board could have a spreadsheet with family units to track numbers of respite care and licensing; he also thought it would be beneficial for the board to see how many children each household can facilitate.

Mrs. Horne let the board know that the therapeutic providers are licensed, but not all families are licensed foster parents.

Mrs. McCall stated that it would be beneficial to know the ages that each household can facilitate so they know what kind of supplies that the community outreach groups need to supply. The community churches pack bags for different age groups of children, but they do not know which age groups are in higher demand.

Mrs. Horne let the board know that a high number of foster children are between the ages of 1-5.

Mrs. Smith asked about clothing donations and asked where foster parents get all the clothing for the children that they take in.

Mrs. Horne stated that the Foster Parent Association has a closet in Hendersonville. The closet takes donations and organizes everything by age and only serves foster parents. They have clothing, toys, and all kinds of things parents might need to facilitate children of all ages.

The Patchwork closet in Hendersonville takes donations as well and donates to anyone in need.

Mrs. Horne stated that the agency refers CPS and APS cases to the Patchwork closet.

Financial Report May 2024 (Attachment V)

Mr. Gwaltney asked about the available to budget numbers and asked if leftover money could be used next month.

Mrs. Novack let the board know that the leftover money will be used to finish out the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mrs. Smith asked about the leftover money and the reason why it has not been used. Director McFalls explained that the number of personnel vacancies account for most of the unused funds.

G. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Director McFalls stated that the agency will have nine vacancies if all prospective candidates start. The candidates will be income maintenance workers and a processing assistant. A couple of our recent candidates have been previously employed by Henderson County. We are almost in the single digits with staffing vacancies.

Board of Social Services Vacancy- Election

Chair Simpson made a motion to elect Amy Lynn Holt as the 5th board member. All members voted to approve, and the motion passed.

H. New Business

Energy Plan Approval:

Mrs. Freeman let the board know that the energy plan must be presented to the state yearly. Mrs. Freeman spoke about the energy plan and the explanation to the state of how the agency will follow through with the recommendations for the CIP and LIEP programs.

Mr. Gwaltney asked if there were any changes from last year. Mrs. Freeman stated that the only changes were the added partners and a new program manager.

Chair Simpson moved to approve the energy plan; all board members voted to approve.

DSS Staff Committee Assignment:

Mr. Gwaltney asked if all committee assignments were up to date. Mrs. Horne stated that the list is up to date and more committees have been added.

DSS Director Selection:

Chair Simpson made a motion to appoint Lorie Horne as the new DSS Director. Mrs. Lowrance seconded the motion, all board members voted yes.

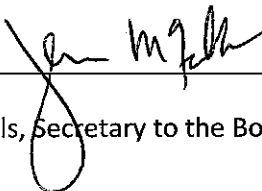
Lorie Horne was selected to be the new Henderson County DSS Director.

Mrs. Horne expressed her gratitude to the board for being selected as the new Director.

I. Adjournment

Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:05.


_____ 7/16/24
Josh Simpson, Chair Date

_____  7/14/24
Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report –June 2024
- II. June Employees of the Month
- III. Statistical Report – May 2024
- IV. Program Administrators' Report –June 2024
- V. Financial Report – May 2024
- VI. Energy Approval Plan