

# Henderson County Board of Social Services

## September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

### A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson at **11:58 am**.

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member Rebecca McCall, Member Amy Holt, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board/Director Debra Dunn, Deputy Director Melissa Novack, Finance Officer Debby Freeman, Economic Services Program Administrator Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk
Guest	None

### B. Public Input

None

### C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Remove the duplicate CCPT/CFRT board member agenda item.

### D. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gwaltney made a motion to approve the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Mrs. Holt seconded. Mrs. Lowrance made a motion to approve the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, closed meeting minutes, Mr. Gwaltney seconded, the minutes were approved.

### E. Approval of consumer directed services waitlist.

Mrs. Corn explained the in-home aid policies, waitlist, and consumer directed services policies. Mrs. McCall asked how the waitlist was prioritized. Mrs. corn explained that the workers ask questions and fill out a form when potential clients call. Adults with substantiated cases go to the top of the waitlist.

Mrs. Lowrance moved to approve the in-home aid policy; Mr. Gwaltney seconded.

Mrs. Holt moved to approve the in-home aid waitlist policy; Mrs. McCall seconded.

Mrs. Holt moved to approve the consumer directed services policy, Mr. Gwaltney seconded.

Mrs. McCall moved to approve the consumer directed waitlist and policy, Mrs. Holt seconded.

### F. Reports

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

#### **Questions Only**

Mrs. Holt asked how the board could best advocate for funds to support the services. Director Horne stated that the state most likely pays the least amount, the majority comes from federal or county funds.

Mrs. Holt asked what would make the situation better for emergency placements. Director Horne stated that the issue is the lack of placements or facilities that can house and take care of high end needs children. Mrs. Dunn stated that certain placements or facilities can deny children with high levels of need or care.

Mrs. McCall asked about Crossnore, a local organization that specializes in foster care. Director Horne explained that Crossnore has one home in the area and the agency has had some success with the organization, but they are not equipped to handle children with high level of needs.

Mr. Gwaltney asked if the lawsuit mentioned would be a big deal. Director Horne explained that yes, she does believe that it is going to be a very big deal that needs are not being met for foster care placements.

Mrs. McCall asked if the board could get statistics and numbers of kids that need high levels of care to see the trends over the years.

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

**Questions only**

None

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

**Questions only**

Mrs. Holt asked about the screen in numbers and how the number goes down. Director Horne explained that there are a couple of ways the number decreases. Kids could get adopted, age out, get adopted, or are reunified with their family.

**August 2023- August 2024 Statistical Report (Attachment III)**

**Questions only**

None

**Financial Report August 2024 (Attachment V)**

Mrs. Novack explained the current overages in a few lines that are overspent. The salaries and wages line is overspent due to lack of staffing and the need for an auxiliary worker and overtime for the staff filling in.

Mrs. Novack also stated that she found the answer to a previous monthly meeting question about overages in the insurance and general bonding line. The difference came from the employee roster snapshots that are taken each year fiscal year 24 snapshot included 191 employees and fiscal year 25 snapshot included 203 employees. The second incident was a 24% increase on an invoice instead of the budgeted 5%. Mrs. Novack stated that the issue has impacted every department in the county, not just DSS. The county budget office is working to manage the overages and work more closely with the insurance company to develop a more accurate budgeting method.

**G. Old Business**

**DSS Staffing Update**

Director Horne spoke about the current 14 vacancies and let the board know that we have 7 candidates that have been selected and are in reference and background checks stages. If all selected candidates start we will only have 7 vacancies.

H. New Business

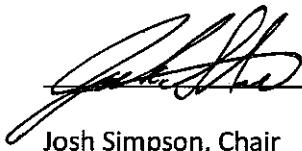
**Closed session**

The members of the board went into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1). Chair Simpson made the motion to go into closed session at 12:50 p.m.

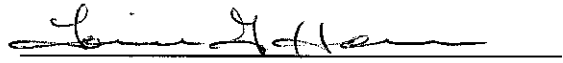
The board members came out of closed session at 1:00 p.m.

I. Adjournment

Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

  
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Josh Simpson, Chair

10/15/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board    Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report –September 2024
- II. September Employees of the Month
- III. Statistical Report – August 2024
- IV. Program Administrators' Report –September 2024
- V. Financial Report – August 2024