

Henderson County Board of Social Services

October 15th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson at **11:57 am.**

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member Rebecca McCall, 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

None

D. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Lowrance made a motion to approve the September 17th, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Mr. Gwaltney seconded. Mrs. Lowrance made a motion to approve the September 17th, 2024, closed session meeting minutes, Mr. Gwaltney seconded, the minutes were approved.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Questions Only

October Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

Questions only

None

F. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Director Horne let the board know that we currently have 11 vacancies, with four external candidates set to start October 21st and November 4th and one internal transfer.

G. New Business

Hurricane Helene Update

Director Horne discussed the relief efforts for Helene aftermath. DSS staff were stationed at the emergency operations center, distribution centers and shelters. DSS shelter duties ended Sunday October 13th due to state agreements with emergency management and The Red Cross. Director Horne discussed the countless hours staff were working to accommodate the needs of the community. The majority of DSS staff returned to normal duties to start preparing and training for

D-SNAP (Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Mrs. Freeman discussed the D-SNAP process and the expectations from the State. Mrs. Freeman stated that the agency should anticipate 15-20% of the county population to apply. The D-SNAP benefits are for people that are not already receiving food stamps; it is a one time benefit. The USDA has mandated that D-SNAP runs Monday through Friday from 8am- 4pm, and everyone in line at 4pm must be seen. Saturday and Sunday D-SNAP will run from 9pm- 2pm and everyone in line at 2pm must be seen.

Director Horne added that the income maintenance workers are the only ones allowed to key applications but any merit based employees are allowed to be interviewers and take applications. All the applications must be keyed on the same day they are taken. Chair Simpson asked what the key standards are for this benefit. Mrs. Freeman stated that there is an income limit, however we are allowed to use deductions such as damage or losses. The applicants only need to show proof of identity, and the rest of the application is client statement. Director Horne let the board know the location of D-SNAP and stated that the space will be shared with FEMA. There were expressed concerns about the possibility of not having enough space since anyone from the 23 affected counties can apply at the Hendersonville D-SNAP site. Chair Simpson asked about the wellbeing of staff working so many hours and asked if the normal DSS operations were still being taken care of. Director Horne stated that we will not be using Social Work Investigators, and we are making sure all mandated programs are covered.

Mrs. Lowrance asked how the press releases were going to reach people that are still without power or cell service. Mrs. McCall stated that the information was going around online and being sent out on every media source and with that the information is being spread by word of mouth. Mr. Gwaltney asked how DSS life would look after D-SNAP is over. Director Horne stated that Income Maintenance workers will be busy for quite some time. With the D-SNAP being a one time benefit there will be people coming to apply for ongoing services.

Mrs. McCall asked if all children in DSS custody were accounted for. Mrs. Dunn stated that everyone is safe and accounted for.

H. Adjournment

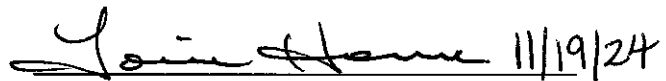
Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:48 pm.



Josh Simpson, Chair

11/19/24

Date



Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report –October 2024
- II. October Employees of the Month