

Henderson County Board of Social Services

December 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 **12:07pm**.

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member Amy Holt, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Debra Dunn, Deputy Director Melissa Novack, Finance Officer Debby Freeman, Economic Services Program Administrator Debbie Johnson, Accounting Tech
Guest	None

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

D. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Lowrance moved to approve the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

E. Reports

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

**Questions Only**

Chair Simpson asked if the remote work has any bearing on DSS. Deputy Director Dunn stated yes it does.

Mrs. Lowrance asked if SB 382 would affect the agency. Deputy Director Dunn stated that childcare subsidies are included. Mrs. Freeman stated that a survey went out to 100 counties and the state made suggestions.

Mrs. Dunn stated two staff members are leaving this week to go to another county to be able to do a flex schedule to be able to work at home more. The ability to do the hybrid work was a deciding factor.

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

**Questions only**

None

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

**Questions only**

Mrs. Dunn asked the Board if they would be interested in a data report in the future. Mrs. Dunn stated that she could implement this into the program administrator's report.

Chair Simpson asked Mrs. Freeman how Medicaid Expansion was going. Mrs. Freeman stated that we are around 4,500 and projections were 6,000.

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

**Questions only**

None

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

Mrs. Novack stated that we should be at 41.7 at this time. You will notice that several lines show as no budget. This is because the County has added new project codes for DSNAP and Helene charges for tracking purposes.

Mrs. Novack stated that the agency added new CSST positions going from one to four. With that change there is also an increase in the Social Worker case management load. In addition to the CSSTs, we contract out services. The funding is a small amount, and it quickly runs out and uses county funding. The addition of these positions has increased the amount of money that the county must pay.

Mrs. Lowrance stated that she would like to see revenues at the next meeting. Chair Simpson asked what revenue dollars were. Mrs. Novack stated that it is federal dollars.

Mrs. Holt asked what the difference is in some of the lines that have similar titles. Mrs. Novack stated that anything coded on the timesheets related to Helene or emergency operations was broken down into separate codes.

**G. Old Business**

**DSS Staffing Update**

Mrs. Dunn stated that we have 10 vacancies and 5 prospective candidates, 7 positions are on the child welfare side. Mrs. McCall asked if all positions were filled for the Medicaid Expansion. Mrs. Freeman stated that only 2 positions have not been filled as we currently don't have a need for them.

Mr. Gwaltney asked how the teams are handling the current number of vacancies. Mrs. Dunn stated that the caseloads are currently around 10. Some workers work at different paces and may have more cases. Mrs. Dunn stated that she sends out frequent "Thank You" and encouragement emails to let staff know they are doing a great job. Overall, the morale is good.

Mrs. McCall asked if there has been an increase in cases due to Helene. Mrs. Dunn stated that there has not been an increase. Mrs. Dunn stated there was a decrease in October and an increased number of cases in November.

Mr. Gwaltney asked if we can tell what long term effects may be on childcare. Mrs. Dunn stated nothing significant. She stated that November and December will see a drop normally. When school starts back, we usually see a small increase in cases.

**H. New Business**

**Child Welfare and Adult Services Essential Funds:**

Mrs. Dunn stated that Henderson County was classified as one of 15 critical, so the funds were distributed to be used in any way for the families involved in child welfare or adult services. Child welfare is receiving \$174,000 and Adult Services is receiving \$109,000.

Mrs. Freeman stated that 9 million was allocated for disaster energy, \$469,701 for the county. The funding for disaster energy has no amount of times that a person can apply for the benefit. The rental assistance program total is \$77,600. A one-time \$1,650 payment to keep people from being evicted will be available. This funding will be available for anyone in need that falls within the

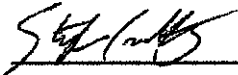
200% poverty level. The request for board action has been submitted and will go before the commissioners on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The information will be posted on the county website for the public. The energy funding will start January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**CCPT/CFT Recommendations:**

Mrs. Dunn stated that the state made some changes to the process. When we met with the health department, we decided not to make any changes. The biggest change is we could consolidate with another county. Our team meets every other month. We aren't anticipating changing anything. We take CPS cases to the CCPT meeting, to come up with ideas, the changes are saying we don't have to do that, but we will continue to do so.

**I. Adjournment**

Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m. Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion.

 1-21-25

Stephen Gwaltney, Vice Chair      Date

 1-23-25

Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board      Date

Attachments:

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