

# Henderson County Board of Social Services

## August 2023 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 pm.

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Judi Smith, Member Rebecca McCall, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board/Director Lorie Horne, Social Work Program Administrator Joseph Maxey Jr., Administrative Officer Debby Freeman, Economic Services Program Administrator Deborah Johnson, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk
Guest	None

### B. Public Input

None

### C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Simpson asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Director McFalls stated that Board Education, CSST's In-Home Aide Program, needed to be added to the agenda.

### D. Approval of Minutes

Chair Simpson asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the July 18th regular meeting, there were none. Mrs. Smith moved to approve the minutes as written, Mrs. Lowrance seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### E. Board Education

#### **CSST's – In Home Aide Program**

##### **Program Basics**

Traci Corn, Program Manager for Adult Services presented on our In-Home Aid Program.

The purpose of the In-Home Aide Program is to improve outcomes for older and disabled adults by providing assistance with home management and/or personal care needs. This can help prevent the need for Adult Protective Services involvement. Not all counties provide in-home aide services as it is not a mandated service.

Funding for the program comes from two sources, the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) and county funding. The Home and Community Care Block Grant must be applied for annually. County funding is used to serve clients above and beyond our HCCBG funding. Clients receive the same assistance regardless of how their service is funded.

## **Requirements**

In-home aide is not an income-based program. However, we do try to prioritize those who are unable to pay privately for services. The adult must require assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) or Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs).

\*ADLs include things like bathing, dressing, mobility, eating & toileting

\*IADLs include things like meal prep, housekeeping, errands, & transportation

HCCBG clients must be over 60 years of age. All clients have a functional assessment done annually by their social worker as well as quarterly assessments. County funding does not have an age requirement.

## **Service Provision**

Most cases are contracted with five different home care agencies – Bayada, Mountain Home Care, Four Seasons, Careheartedly, and FTL. These companies hire, train, and supervise aides who go into homes.

For some clients, the service is provided directly by a CSST who works for DSS. We currently have one CSST and have two more that will start this month. Each CSST has approximately fifteen clients.

Every client has a social worker assigned to them. The social worker sees and assesses the client quarterly, oversees the service to ensure the needs are being met, and links the client to any other resources they may need.

We currently have sixty-eight individuals open for in-home aide services. Sixteen are being served by our CSST and the remainder are contracted out. Our wait list currently has 53 individuals.

## **F. Reports**

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

The NC State budget has not passed. The state had indicated that we would have a budget mid-August with Medicaid expansion to take effect October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Currently the state is signifying that the budget will not pass before September 1<sup>st</sup>. For Medicaid expansion to take effect, the budget must pass. If the budget does not pass by September 1<sup>st</sup>, the roll out will be delayed. Currently, October 1<sup>st</sup> is the date set by DHHS to start taking additional Medicaid applications for clients who would be eligible under Medicaid expansion.

### **July Employees of the Month (Attachment II) Questions only**

None

### **May 2022 – May 2023 Statistical Report (Attachment III)**

**Questions only**

None

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

**Questions only**

Mrs. McCall asked Lorie Horne if one of the new Foster Care licensing on the administrator's report was for the H3 Homes Family. Mrs. Horne stated that the family was still completing the licensing process at this time.

Mrs. Lowrance asked Mrs. Horne when we should see the uptick in cases now that school is open. Mrs. Horne stated that we expect it within the next three weeks. Once school is back in session, the number of reports has historically increased.

Mr. Gwaltney inquired as to what conflict of interest cases were. Mrs. Horne stated that it could be a CPS report on an employee, an employee's relatives, or a foster family the county has licensed. It could be whatever that county determines to be a COI. The state manual dictates that the county determines what is a conflict of interest to that county.

**Financial Report May 2023 (Attachment V)**

**Questions only**

County Finance is in the process of closing the fiscal year 22/23. Mr. Maxey will have the financial report next meeting.

**G. Old Business**

**DSS Staffing Update**

Director McFalls stated that we currently have twenty-five vacancies. Twelve of the vacancies are in Social Work. Thirteen vacancies are in Economic Services. We have seven people committed to begin August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Director McFalls expressed that she wanted the Board's input on going forward with the posted positions directly related to Medicaid expansion. Director McFalls' recommendation is that we post all the open positions and wait to see if the budget passes. We have enough open positions to accommodate the new positions coming in August. We will continue to fill positions but will monitor diligently. We believe that by the time September gets here, we should have a clearer idea if the budget will pass.

Mrs. McCall supported the continuation of the hiring processes. Mr. Gwaltney, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Lowrance, and Mrs. Smith were also in agreement to continue with filling the positions in preparation for expansion.

Across the state, counties are in different stages in preparation for Medicaid expansion. There is no normal. Counties are in different stages, but we feel we need to be prepared.

H. New Business  
**Medicaid Expansion**

In the fiscal year 23/24 budget, we had asked for seven front line positions, one supervisor and one income maintenance caseworker three. After the county approved those positions in June 2023, we got the approval from the state and posted those positions.

We were prepared with interviews to fill the positions the week Kody Kinsley, NC Secretary of Health and Human Services, announced that October 1<sup>st</sup> was the Go Live date for Medicaid expansion. We have hired five of the seven front line workers.

The state sent counties money to help prepare for the Medicaid Expansion and the unwinding of Medicaid requiring full re-certifications. The funding was allocated to two different categories totally around \$300,000. We started using the money in May as we were in the unwinding process. The state is saying they advanced counties the money, but once the federal government makes the first payments to the state after Medicaid expansion, the state will withhold from counties the amount previously allocated for the unwinding and distribute the remaining balance between all 100 counties. We are unsure what will happen with these funds if Medicaid expansion does not pass. It is not clear if the state will ask counties to reimburse the state the funding counties were advanced.

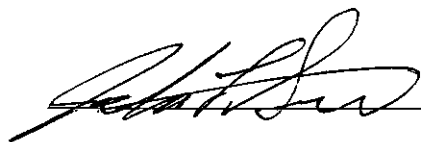
**Closed Session**

The members of the board went into a closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6). Mrs. Lowrance made a motion to go into closed session at 12:47 p.m. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion; all board members agreed.

The board came out of closed session at 1:13 p.m. on a motion from Mrs. Lowrance. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion and the board returned to open session.

I. Adjournment

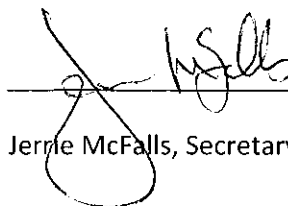
Chair Simpson asked if there were any additional items for discussion. There were none presented. Mrs. McCall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All present were polled and the motion passed. Mr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.



Josh Simpson, Chair

9/19/23

Date



Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board

9/19/2023

Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – August 2023
- II. August Employees of the Month
- III. July– July 2023 Statistical Report
- IV. Program Administrators' Report – August 2023
- V. Financial Report - August 2023
- VI. Statistical Report – August 2023