

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2018 MEETING

The Henderson County Board of Social Services conducted their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 12:00 PM in the East Conference Room (C2104) of the Human Services Building. Present from the Board were Vice-Chair Dr. Jennifer Hensley, John Boyd and Frank Wilson. Present from the DSS staff were Jerrie McFalls (Director), Kevin Marino (Social Work Program Administrator), Joe Maxey (Administrative Officer), Sandy Morgan (Economic Services Program Administrator) and Karen Vale (Clerk for the Board). Newly appointed board member Judy Smith was also present, her term will begin on 7/1/2018.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:57 AM by Vice-Chair Hensley.

**Public Input:** None

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** No changes were requested. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. All present were in favor, the minutes were approved.

**Directors Report (Attachment I):** Director McFalls reviewed her submitted report with specific discussion regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DHHS and Henderson County (**Attachments II-IV**). The MOU is due back to the State by 6/29/18. Several concerns from the DSS Board as well as Director McFalls were shared:

- The MOU is between Henderson County and DHHS, not Henderson County DSS. Therefore, the MOU has been submitted to the HC Commissioners for review/approval/signature prior to submission to DHHS. Additionally, funding from the state may be withheld if the performance measures are not met.
- There is an on-going issue between NC counties and DHHS as to the performance measures the state is using, accessibility to the reports available and status of reports that have not been created yet. The MOU will go into effect in 1/2019 regarding these performance measures with the DHHS plan being that all reports will be created and available to the counties to monitor their own progress.
- The Henderson County Commissioners will review the MOU at their specially called meeting, set for Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.
- Attachments 1-9 to the MOU outline the performance measures and authority for each of the applicable areas.

Dr. Hensley suggested an addendum to the MOU from the Commissioners outlining specific feedback on the statute interpretation, deadlines and corrective actions. Director McFalls shared that several other counties were submitting rebuttals/addendums with their MOU, several counties were signing the MOU as written and several counties may not be signing at all. Dr. Hensley asked about the amount of discussion Director McFalls has had with the Commissioners and County management staff on the MOU. Director McFalls shared that she had met with Mike Edney, Chair of the HC Commissioners over a year ago to discuss what was possible coming from DHHS. Once the MOU was sent out, several meetings were held with Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley, and several phone conversations with County Attorney Russ Burrell. Director McFalls and the management team will draft an addendum to the MOU to be submitted prior to the meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Once approved/signed, the document will be transmitted to DHHS.

The June Employees of the Month (**Attachment V**) were shared. Mr. Maxey shared on Michelle Lindsey, Mrs. Morgan shared on Jennifer Gresser and Mr. Marino shared on Mindy Denney.

**May Statistical Report (Attachment VI):** Director McFalls addressed two areas: Significant increase (+26.2%) in CPS Investigations Initiated. This number does increase as the traditional calendar school age children approach summer vacation. Several vacancies in social work positions have also impacted this number. Significant decrease (-54.8%) in APS open cases, no clear factor as to why this decrease.

**Program Administrators Reports (Attachment VII):** Mr. Marino reviewed his report adding that the first check from the Duke Endowment Grant had been received earlier this week. The dates for this year's Social Services Institute have been released, October 17-19 in Hickory. Lisa Cauley, DHHS Deputy Director of Child Welfare, has encouraged Mr. Marino to submit the training/simulation project for the Best Practice Award, given at the Institute. Mrs. Morgan reviewed her report. She reminded the board that the percent processed timely needs to be 95 – 100% to be considered in compliance. Updating the status of the single audit, the interim report has been received and she is going through it working on a rebuttal. At this time, we do not believe any of the areas of concern involve a Medicaid payback. Mr. Maxey shared that the monthly financial report for May has not been released by County Finance yet. Once it is released, Karen will forward to board members via email. In the FY 18-19 budget, County Commissioners approved a 3% salary adjustment for county staff. Finally, he reviewed that the number of agency contracts for FY 18-19 remains between 25 – 30.

**Child Care Prioritization Policy\* (Attachment VIII):** Program Administrator Morgan requested that the board review the updated policy. The words "to support protective services" were added to the first guideline. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the policy as written, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion; all present were in favor. The motion passed.

**Focus Area Updates:** Vice-Chair Hensley explained the focus area section of the meeting and the assignment of areas of emphasis to guest Judy Smith. Once Mrs. Smith is sworn in at the July meeting, another discussion regarding changes to specific area assignments will be held. Vice-Chair Hensley then asked if there were any new updates to the topic areas.

- Dr. Hensley – Child Welfare/CCPT: None
- Mr. Wilson – Diversity/Minority: Mr. Wilson first asked if there was a rating system for County DSS's that reflects which counties are operating at State standards and which counties are not? Director McFalls shared that there is not a rating system for counties. Mr. Wilson then asked about requesting an exemption from the State regarding the provisions of the MOU discussed earlier, since Henderson County is already performing higher than the state standards. Director McFalls reiterated that all 100 counties in North Carolina are being asked to sign the MOU, regardless of performance. Mr. Wilson reported that several area churches, i.e. St. James, Grace Lutheran and St. Paul's are creating a diversity group to address the issues surrounding immigration and the treatment of immigrant families in Henderson County. He also stated that immigration issues were the main topic of discussion at the NAACP meeting held on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Juneteenth celebrations were held in Henderson County on 6/13. Finally, Mr. Wilson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Boyd for his service to the board.
- Mr. Boyd – Housing/Sustainability: None
- Mrs. Kirby – Aging/COA: Did not attend meeting
- Mrs. Summey – Mental Health/Substance Abuse: Did not attend meeting

#### **Old Business:**


- **FY 2018 – 2019 DSS Budget Update:** Mr. Maxey shared that in addition to the salary adjustment discussed earlier, the Commissioners approved a new vehicle for DSS and one new staff person. Our relationship

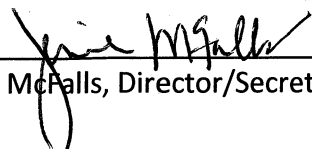
with the County Budget office and the County Manager's office is good, and our budget requests are taken seriously. Mr. Maxey will create a budget book for the board members to be distributed at the next board meeting.

### **New Business**

- **MOU – DHHS and Henderson County FY 18-19\***: See earlier discussion during Director McFalls report. The board did not make any motions regarding the MOU, but asked the management staff to draft an addendum to the MOU addressing the measures/reports DHHS references in the MOU. This addendum will be submitted with the MOU to the County Commissioners for approval/signature.
- **Nomination of Officers FY 2018-2019**: Director McFalls called for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for the next year. Mr. Boyd nominated Dr. Hensley for Chair, and Mrs. Summey for Vice-Chair. Mr. Wilson seconded the nominations. Director McFalls asked for all those in favor to raise their hands, all board members present raised their hands and the motion of nominations was passed. The election will be held during the July 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- **Recognition of Outgoing Board Member John Boyd**: Vice Chair Hensley thanked Mr. Boyd for his service to the board and the community. She presented him with a card and a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Boyd thanked the board members present and the management staff for their hard work on behalf of the community and the DSS staff. He appreciated being given the opportunity to serve.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**: Vice-Chair Hensley reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 12:00 PM. Mr. Boyd made motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, and all present were in favor. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM.

  
Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Vice-Chair

  
Jerrie McFalls, Director/Secretary to the Board

: JGM

### **Attachments:**

- I. Director's Report (June 2018)
- II. MOU (FY 2018-2019) Between DHHS and Henderson County
- III. Description of HB 630 Measures
- IV. FY 18-19 DHHS/County Agreement Final Draft Talking Points (5-31-18)
- V. June Employees of the Month
- VI. Statistical Report (May 2017 – May 2018)
- VII. Program Administrators Report (June 2018)
- VIII. Child Care Prioritization Policies (June 2018)