

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018 MEETING

The Henderson County Board of Social Services conducted their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 20th, 2018 at 12:00 PM in the North Conference Room (C2140) of the Human Services Building. Present from the Board were Chair Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Vice-Chair Penny Summey, Tyra Kirby and Judy Smith. Present from the DSS staff were Jerrie McFalls (Director), Kevin Marino (Social Work Program Administrator), Joe Maxey (Administrative Officer), Marlene Wilkerson (IM Supervisor 3) and Karen Vale (Clerk for the Board). Guest presenter Kym Rhodes was also present. Board Member Frank Wilson and Sandy Morgan (Economic Services Program Administrator) were absent, with regrets.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM by Chair Hensley.

Public Input: None

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Chair Hensley asked for any changes to the minutes, none were requested. Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion. All present were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Board Education: Kym Rhodes, Social Worker 2, reviewed the foster home licensing process. We currently have 64 licensed foster homes licensed through HC DSS, and 2 kinship-only licensed homes. A MAPP class was just completed with a possible 16 new homes being licensed for foster care and 2 new kinship-only homes. The MAPP course is made up of 10 classes that cover childhood trauma, expectations, how to work with the parent(s), etc. Additionally, all applicants for licensure must have a criminal background check, fingerprinting, physical, fire inspection and a home visit. The process can take from 2-3 months once the class has been completed, then children can be placed in the newly licensed home. One of the many benefits of licensure includes the ability to receive payment from the State of North Carolina to help with expenses. Three rates are set by the State based on age of the child: birth to 5; 6 – 12 and 13 – 18. The Family Resource Unit at DSS consists of six social workers and four community social services technicians. In addition to licensure, the unit also works on promoting the need for more foster homes in Henderson County through speaking engagements and area events. Several of the unit social workers are responsible for primary placement of children as they come into DSS custody. They meet with the foster care social workers to discuss timelines, needs of the children, parental involvement, kinship resources, day care needs, etc. If necessary, a daycare voucher can be done to assist in payments for the foster child(ren). Children in foster care receive Medicaid, so medical expenses are covered. Clothing vouchers can also be obtained by the foster parents to purchase necessary items for the children, so children come into custody with little to no clothing. Once a family has been licensed, four visits must be done by the social workers in the unit. Two are required in the home and two outside the home. Staff from the FRU also oversee the Adoption Assistance program, which provides payments to families that have adopted foster children, specific criteria is set by the State and staff monitor compliance.

Mrs. Rhodes explained the difference between foster care and guardianship. Children in foster care remain in the custody of DSS, while children under a guardianship order are not in DSS custody. Placement providers for children under a guardianship, who are over 13 years of age, also qualify for a stipend; while providers for children under a guardianship who are under 13 do not.

Mrs. Kirby asked for clarification on biological parent involvement at the school if the child is in DSS custody. Mrs. Rhodes responded that biological parents and family members are often included in school meetings/activities if there are no safety concerns. The assigned social worker would ensure that school staff were made aware of the parameters of biological parent involvement. Dr. Hensley asked about self-care for staff, how do they manage their stress level and are there tools in place for support? Mrs. Rhodes responded that staff rely on each other to talk through stressful situations; or seek outside counseling through the Wellness Center and EAN. Dr. Hensley asked for feedback regarding support the board can provide to the staff, Mrs. Rhodes will have to get back to her on that request.

Directors Report (Attachment II): Chair Hensley asked if there were any questions/comments regarding the submitted reports. Director McFalls added to her reporting on the State/County MOU that the Henderson County Commissioners will review/approve the updated MOU at the 12/3/18 meeting. Mr. Marino will be attending the meeting in case there are any questions from the commissioners. Mr. Marino added to his program administrator's report that the toy run was a great success on 11/17! Over \$14,000 were raised with 520 bikes registered.

Old Business:

- **DSS Staff Holiday Luncheon:** Karen reviewed the plans for the DSS staff luncheon and advised the board members to let her know if they would be attending. The theme of the luncheon is "Ugly Holiday Sweater" and each unit is being encouraged to submit one design (worn by the unit/team supervisor). The ARC would like the attending board members to vote on their favorite sweater, and certificates will be awarded at the lunch. Chair Hensley asked if it would be possible that area churches bring lunch to unit/teams throughout the year as a token of appreciation? Director McFalls said she would have to look into it, we have not been asked to participate in this type of program.

New Business

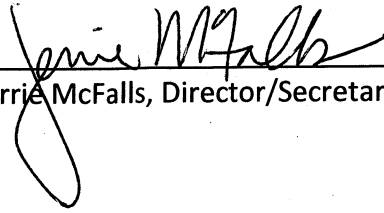
- **DSS Board Member Vacancy:** Director McFalls shared that the status of Mr. Wilson's appointment to the DSS Board may be changing due to his health. She has had a conversation with staff at the State Social Services Commission regarding the possible need to replace Mr. Wilson and the timeline that would be followed. She will keep the board updated as to the status.
- **Director Evaluation Timeline:** Chair Hensley reminded the board that it is their responsibility to conduct Director McFall's evaluation for Henderson County. She will be sending out evaluation forms to the board members and will schedule meetings with Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley and Human Resource Director Jan Prichard to gather feedback and create the evaluation. Chair Hensley would like Director McFalls to submit a list of her accomplishments from 2018 and goals for 2019 before the board meeting in December. She will provide an update during the December meeting as well.
- **2019 DSS Board Meeting Calendar*:** The members reviewed the proposed 2019 meeting calendar. Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve the calendar as submitted; Vice-Chair Summey seconded the motion, all present were in favor. The 2019 DSS Board Meeting Calendar was approved, Karen will ensure that it is posted accordingly.

Vice-Chair Summey asked how the expansion of Blue Ridge Health Services would impact our clients (**Attachment III**). The increased staffing in mental health professionals and substance abuse counselors will be very helpful to the citizens of the county. They look to be expanding services in many of the Western North Carolina counties, including additional help in the schools in Henderson and Polk Counties. These services are being funded through a grant that Blue Ridge Health was awarded. Crossnore was also awarded part of this grant and they are hiring

two additional school social workers. Vice-Chair Summey asked that NC Medicaid Managed Care (**Attachment IV**) be added to the agenda for December.

Next Meeting and Adjournment: Chair Hensley thanks Mrs. Wilkerson for attending the meeting as a representative from Economic Services. She then reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18th, 2018 at 12:00 PM. Vice-Chair Summey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion. All present were in favor, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 PM.


Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Chair


Jerrie McFalls, Director/Secretary to the Board

: JGM

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report (October 2018)
- II. Blue Ridge Health PFH Update November 2018
- III. North Carolina Medicaid Managed Care Handout
- IV. NC Medicaid Enrollment Broker Timeline 10/24/18
- V. Employees of the Month (November 2018)
- VI. Statistical Report (October 2017 – October 2018)
- VII. Program Administrators Report (October 2018)
- VIII. FY17-18 Program Spending Chart 11/15/18
- IX. DSS Staff Holiday Luncheon Flyer
- X. FY18-19 4 Month YTD Report 11/19/18
- XI. Proposed Board of Social Services 2019 Monthly Meeting Calendar