

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2017 MEETING

The Henderson County Board of Social Services conducted their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM in the East Conference Room (C2104) of the Human Services Building. Present from the Board were Chair Penny Summey, Vice-Chair Dr. Jennifer Hensley, John Boyd, Frank Wilson and Tyra Kirby. Present from the DSS staff were Jerrie McFalls (Director), Kevin Marino (Social Work Program Administrator), Sandy Morgan (Economic Services Program Administrator), Joe Maxey (Administrative Officer), Renee Roof (Social Work Program Manager-Investigations/Assessments), Lorie Horne (Social Work Program Manager-Foster Care), Trina Hill (Social Work Program Manager – Adult Services), Bob Jones (IM Supervisor 3) and Karen Vale (Clerk to the Board). Guest: State Senator Chuck Edwards.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM by Chair Summey.

Public Input: None

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Chair Summey requested a correction to the minutes of the November 17th meeting; adding the word “waiver” after Medicaid in the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Focus Area section of the minutes. Karen will make the correction before the minutes are published. Dr. Hensley made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Mr. Boyd seconded the motion, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

Guest Presentation: Chair Summey introduced Senator Chuck Edwards, and asked him to provide information about what he is currently working on at the State Legislature level. Senator Edwards reviewed House Bill 630 and the impact on child welfare services; he is also hearing a lot of concerns regarding NC FAST, both with Economic Services programs and the pilot counties that are rolling into the Child Welfare programming. He has communicated his concerns and asked that Director McFalls be contacted to discuss the issues. Director McFalls shared that she had been contacted by NC FAST Help Desk Manager and discussed our concerns. Senator Edwards went on to share that the legislature passed the STOP Act to help address the opioid crisis in North Carolina. It is just a starting point, and he is open to other ideas to address this growing epidemic. One of the main points of the legislation was to put a limit on the amount doctors can initially prescribe to a patient. In the upcoming session the provisions of the STOP Act may be expanded to also prevent veterinarians from prescribing large numbers of pills to animals that are injured, research has shown that people are injuring their animals to have access to the opioids. Senator Edwards shared that he believes Dr. Cohen, Secretary of Health and Human Services for the State of North Carolina, is very competent and has urged the legislature to work with her on a Medicaid waiver. This would move health care into a managed care type program. This will also be addressed during the next session of the legislature. Dr. Hensley asked if costs for repeat treatments will be addressed as part the upcoming legislation as the costs continue to rise, specifically regarding NARCAN. Additionally, will alternative avenues of treatment be covered, i.e. chiropractic care, acupuncture, etc.? Mr. Boyd added that mental health also needs to be addressed moving forward.

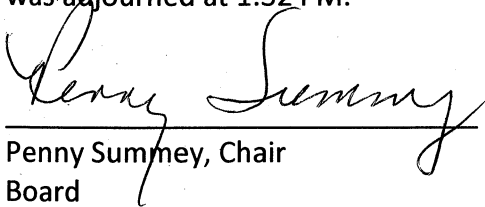
Chair Summey expanded on concerns regarding Medicaid changes that will now require counties found to have determined benefits incorrectly to pay back funds to the State of North Carolina. The hurdles staff have encountered with NC FAST, the lack of training certifications from the State, lack of timeliness by the State regarding policy changes and a central reference tool (manual) negatively

Old Business

DSS Director Evaluation-Update: Chair Summey requested that any board member that had not provided feedback to please submit to her as quickly as possible. She anticipates finalizing the evaluation by the January board meeting.

New Business: None

Next Meeting and Adjournment: Chair Summey reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th 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 1:32 PM.


Penny Summey, Chair
Board


Jerrie McFalls, Director/Secretary to the

: JGM

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report (December 2017)
- II. North Carolina Child Welfare Profile
- III. Employees of the Month (December 2017)
- IV. Statistical Report (November 2016 – November 2017)
- V. Program Administrators Report (December 2017)
- VI. FY17-18 Five Month Report (July - November 2017)
- VII. Economic Services Program Administrators Report (December 2017)

impact the staffs ability to be 100% correct. Pay backs can range from small dollar amounts to over \$100,000.00. How can counties be held accountable without the tools to do their job? Once the error is found by auditors, staff has to review the findings and present a rebuttal that may or may not be accepted. Henderson County has not received a chargeback notice as of yet. Senator Edwards asked to be made aware of any chargeback notice the county receives and he will continue to dig deeper into the legislation and the impact on the county. Specifically, why was the legislation proposed/passed when NC FAST has not been operating as efficiently as originally planned? Director McFalls encouraged Senator Edwards to review the audit by Beth Woods in June 2017 outlining the vulnerabilities with NC FAST and the position the counties were being placed in.

There was a brief discussion about the ABAWAD program; including qualifications and number of applicants in Henderson County. The majority of the applicants in Henderson County are working but not enough to qualify for benefits from their employer; but too much to qualify for Medicaid.

Senator Edwards asked the staff present to continue to share stories of how our clients got in the situations they are in. All privacy laws will be respected, but these stories will help educate him on the citizens of the county. There was a discussion about recent legislation on school room class size in North Carolina. Teachers today deal with so many outside issues that class size needed to be decreased to allow for the level of attention for each student. Chair Summey added that the Head Start program has been instrumental in preparing young children for school, which in turn has helped them stay on task. Dr. Hensley suggested evaluating children in the 2nd & 3rd grade is too late to determine learning disabilities/challenges, it should start much earlier.

Chair Summey closed the presentation with Senator Edwards by sharing concerns regarding the regionalization of DSS/DHHS and how that will impact local agency duties. DHHS has stated that an organizational structure will be forthcoming. Senator Edwards is aware of the regionalization and the Health and Human Services Committee he serves on in the legislature is open to any feedback on the action. Senator Edwards closed his presentation by thanking the staff for the hard work they are doing.

Directors Report (Attachment I): Director McFalls reviewed her report. Chair Summey shared with Senator Edwards the proposed training protocol that Social Work Program Administrator Marino has been working on in partnership with other county DSS's and are universities. This protocol was shared with Michael Becketts after the Social Services Institute in October and during the 12/5/17 meeting with Director McFalls.

Program Administrators Reports (Attachments V – VII): As stated in the agenda, only questions would be addressed at this time. Chair Summey asked about the provisions of the Duke Endowment Grant the Henderson County DSS has received. PA Marino shared about the application process and the on-going communications with the grant review team. This grant will support our on-going efforts to address substance misuses issue in the family system. Chair Summey recognized prior directors Liston Smith and Eric Bush who continually requested funding in the HC DSS budget to address mental health and substance abuse treatment programs to support the families we work with in Child Welfare.

Administrative Officer Maxey stated that the fiscal 5-month spending chart reflects good progress on the budget and that we are staying on track with our expenses.

Focus Area Updates: No updates will be provided at the meeting, will resume in January.