

Henderson County Board of Social Services

January 21st, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Board Chair Dr. Jennifer Hensley at 12:06 pm.

Board Members Present	Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Chair Melinda Lowrance, Vice-Chair Margaret Stone, Member Tyra Kirby, Member Judy Smith, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board/Director Kevin Marino, Social Work Program Administrator Joe Maxey, Administrative Officer Jillian Humphries, Income Maintenance Program Administrator Karen Vale, Clerk to the Board
Guests	Dianne Petit, IMC 2 Family & Children's Outposted

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Dr. Hensley asked to add under New Business the topic of the NCACBSS Meeting Update, all board members present agreed to the adjustment.

D. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hensley asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the December 17th, 2019 regular meeting; there were none. Mrs. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion passed. Clerk Karen Vale distributed copies of the closed session minutes from the December 17th, 2019 meeting to the board members present. Dr. Hensley asked if there were any changes to the closed session minutes; there were none. Vice Chair Lowrance made a motion to approve the closed session minutes as written, Mrs. Stone seconded. All present were in favor and the motion passed. Clerk Karen Vale collected the copies of the closed session minutes.

E. Board Education

Dr. Hensley asked Ms. Petit to introduce herself and share with the board information regarding Medicaid for Pregnant Women (MPW). Ms. Petit began by sharing that she has been with HC DSS for 4 years and for the last 2 years she has been outposted at Advent Health Center (formerly Park Ridge Hospital) as a DSS representative working primarily with the new mother/newborns Medicaid caseload. Ms. Petit distributed "NC Medicaid for Pregnant Women (MPW) Handout" (**Attachment I**) that highlights the provisions of the program. She reviewed the eligibility requirements for this program and the coverage it provides. She explained that a mother may apply for this coverage at anytime during her pregnancy, and that the program will cover all medical expenses related to the pregnancy, including labor and delivery. Once the child is born, Ms. Petit adds the newborn to the mother's Medicaid case authorizing auto newborn coverage beginning the day the child is born which covers 100% of the hospital services for the newborn. The child is automatically covered for a 13-month period. During her

meetings with new mom's she is also required to review for other Medicaid programs that the mother/family may be eligible for and how to secure access to those programs. If a mom applies for the MPW program but lives in another county, Ms. Petit will complete the application and then forward it to the county of residence. Ms. Petit shared that she works very closely with the hospital's financial services office, sharing appropriate information back and forth so that she is made aware of possible eligible clients, and the hospital is kept up to date on patients covered by Medicaid. Ms. Petit also shared with the Board about the Medically Needy application, which will help those clients whose income is too high for MPW. This type of application offers full Medicaid to the mother for benefits beginning the month her child was born, and, if eligible, continued Medicaid coverage for up to 6 months going forward. The newborn would still qualify for the auto-newborn coverage in this instance. For non-US citizens, an Emergency Medicaid application can be accepted which will cover the labor and delivery charges for mom only, and therefore, provide auto newborn coverage to the child. Mrs. Smith asked about a minimum age for applying, Ms. Petit stated that there is no minimum age for a female to apply for MPW, she has worked with 15-year olds that qualified for MPW. Mrs. Smith suggested to Ms. Petit that she reach out to the Child and Family Resource Center regarding their Adolescent Parenting Program to make sure they are aware of the application process and coverage available. Mrs. Smith will provide contact information to Ms. Petit. In conclusion, Ms. Petit shared that during her tenure as an outposted IMC, she has processed 654 cases for newborn coverage. The Board thanked Ms. Petit for sharing her information with them. Ms. Petit left the meeting.

F. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment II)

Director McFall's highlighted bullet point #1 of her report regarding the status of the FY 19-20 State budget, and the possibility that the State Legislature may not pass a FY 20-21 budget. Vice-Chair Lowrance asked about "We Are Hope Week" plans (Bullet #5). Would there be an opportunity to partner with the sponsoring agency to get the word out to the community? Director McFalls encouraged Vice-Chair Lowrance to reach out to Julie Honeycutt from Hope RX, as they are the primary sponsor of the event. Director McFalls anticipates that the impact of vaping will be the main topic for the event.

January Employees of the Month (Attachment III)

No Discussion

December 2018-December 2019 Statistical Report (Attachment IV)

No Discussion

January Program Administrator's Report (Attachment V)

No Discussion

FY 19-20 2nd Quarter Personnel Report (Attachment VI)

Chair Hensley asked Director McFalls about the number of resignations listed on the report, specifically that there are more in the Economic Benefits section. How is the section handling it with the work

coming in? Program Administrator Jillian Humphries shared that the EB management staff is currently working on a recruiting/retention plan for their department that includes review of interview processes and how to engage current staff. Director McFalls added that job descriptions are also being reviewed, updated and rewritten, if necessary, to give IMC 2's and 3's more flexibility to work in the different disciplines of Economic Benefits. Also being addressed are office/unit arrangements and overall culture of the section. Two of the departures were due to retirement, but there were five other departures across Economic Benefits and Social Work. Four of those five secured positions at other area employer's, current HC salaries could have impacted those resignations. An overall county salary study has not yet been completed. HC did provide information for the recently completed salary study for Transylvania County. We have lost several social work staff to area school districts. Chair Hensley asked about the number of social work staff we have that live outside of Henderson County; Mr. Marino is not sure of the exact number, but we have several. Mr. Marino went on to explain how he is partnering with Ms. Humphries to cross-pollinate staff by exposing them to different trainings where the participants are from both sections, i.e. Project Broadcast. They are also looking as the development of a peer support group across the sections.

G. Old Business

Times News Article/Thank You Notes

Chair Hensley asked if everyone had seen the article in the January 12th edition of the Hendersonville Times-News (**Attachment VIII**)? Many positive comments about how the article was well-written. Chair Hensley asked the board members about completing handwritten notes to the vendors/donors for the toy run. The board members agreed to complete this project; Karen will assemble the list of vendors/donors with address information and send several to each board member for completion by the end of the week.

H. New Business

Electronic Transmission of Board Materials

Director McFalls reviewed the current options utilized to distribute the Board meeting materials each month to the members. Paper copies are mailed to members the week before the meeting, with Chair Hensley's being hand delivered due to prior issues with USPS timely delivery. An electronic copy of the materials is sent via email to each board member to their county email address on the Friday prior to the meeting. Can the paper version be eliminated, leaving the electronic version as the only option? Several board members were fine with electronic only, several board members rely on the paper version for review prior to the meeting. The Board members agreed to continue with the two current options for the future.

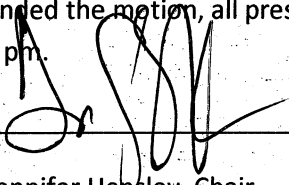
NCACBSS Meeting Update

Chair Hensley shared that she attended the quarterly meeting of the NCACBSS in Raleigh last Friday. Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations at DHHS, presented on the status of NC FAST in relation to the lack of a State budget for FY 19-20. Help Desk Tickets/ Wait Times may increase, limited system improvements and the development of NC FAST for Child Welfare will be put on hold. A letter will be forwarded to all county directors about the anticipated impact. Chair Hensley also

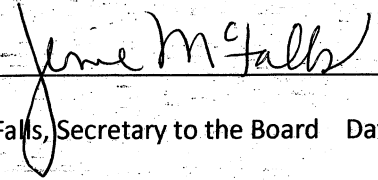
expressed our on-going issues with NC FAST and how these upcoming issues will further increase our frustration with the software. She shared that work is being done for the next memorandum of understanding between the individual counties and the State. 2 of the 26 measures have been eliminated. Finally, Chair Hensley alerted the members that the Social Services Institute will be held the first week in August this year, and that the organizers are going back to scheduling the event on Wednesday – Friday as opposed to the Tuesday – Thursday event held last year.

I. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mrs. Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion, all present were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm.



Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Chair Date



Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. NC Medicaid for Pregnant Women (MPA) Handout
- II. Director's Report – January 2020
- III. January Employees of the Month
- IV. December 2018 – December 2019 Statistical Report
- V. Program Administrator's Report – December 2019
- VI. FY 19-20 2nd Quarter Personnel Report
- VII. FY 19-20 6-Month YTD Budget Summary
- VIII. 1/12/20 Article in Hendersonville Times-News