

# Henderson County Board of Social Services

## June 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

### A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by DSS Board Chair Dr. Jennifer Hensley at 12:01 pm.

Board Members Present	Dr. Jennifer Hensley, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Margaret Stone, Member Josh Simpson, Member Judy Smith, 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
Guest	Steve Smith, Henderson County Health Director

### B. Public Input

None

### C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Dr. Hensley motioned that New Business be moved to the beginning of the meeting. Steve Smith, Henderson County Health Director, to present the Tobacco Policy Considerations for the Human Services Campus. Judy Smith seconded the motion to move new business and the motion passed.

Dr. Hensley motioned that Nominations for fiscal year 22/23 DSS Board Officers be placed on the agenda under new business. Judy Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### D. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hensley asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the May 17th, 2022, open session, there were none. Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Josh Simpson seconded the motion. All members present approved the minutes as written and the motion passed.

### E. Reports

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

Questions Only:

Judy Smith asked Director McFalls what was meant by "unwinding" for Medicare and Medicaid?

Director McFalls explained that as the waivers for the pandemic end for Medicare and Medicaid, current methods of applying for and certification of benefits may change. We currently have telephonic signaturing, self-attestation, supplements for food stamps are automatic, and Medicaid cannot be reduced or terminated during the pandemic. For months we have been certifying clients' eligibility, but the clients' benefits cannot be terminated or reduced at this time. We document and will use the information when the pandemic ends.

The Public Health Emergency is scheduled to end on July 15, 2022. However, the sixty-day notice has not been given by CMS, so we anticipate an extension through October 15, 2022.

Currently we have 16,832 cases and 25,000 people that HCDSS will need to recertify over time. The unwinding is the undoing of all the waivers we have been operating under as we return to our pre-pandemic operating procedures.

**June Employees of the Month (Attachment II)**

No Discussion

**May 2021 – May 2022 Statistical Report (Attachment III)**

No Discussion

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

No Discussion

**Financial Report May 2022 (Attachment V)**

No Discussion

F. Old Business

**DSS staffing update**

Director McFalls stated we currently have 7 vacancies down from 20 in previous months. Some positions are in process with interviews, background checks and drug screens.

Dr. Hensley asked if the Work from Home policy has an update. Director McFalls stated that the work from home policy has not been initiated because we are still waiting on computers. Several issues have caused the delay in receiving the computers. Uniform guidance slowed the purchasing process. Mr. Maxey, the Administrative Officer, is scheduled meet with county IT June 22, 2022, to discuss the roll out of the computers once they have been received.

DSS cannot begin the Work From Home Policy until we have computers to use for the employees who have the ability to work from home.

Most Adult Protective Services, Foster Care, and Income Maintenance do not have laptops currently.

G. New Business

**Tobacco Policy Considerations for the Human Services Campus**

Steve Smith, Henderson County Health Director, presented the possible upcoming changes to the Henderson County Smoking Policy for the Human Services Building. The current Henderson County Ordinance allows smoking areas and does not qualify as a smoke free policy. New accreditation standards and new Medicaid guidance for healthcare operations will require contracted medical organizations to provide a 100% tobacco-free campus. A tobacco-free campus would eliminate

smoking areas that are on property now. NC Medicaid Standard and Tailored plans are scheduled to roll out December 1, 2022.

The proposal for the Human Services Building is a tobacco-free building and grounds, eliminating designated tobacco use areas. This will require the County Commissioners' endorsement. A tobacco-free policy must be in place before December 1, 2022, to meet Medicaid standards.

Josh made a motion to support the tobacco-free policy. Judy seconded the motion. All members voted to support the motion. Dr. Hensley stated the DSS Board could submit a letter of support if needed for the commissioners' meeting.

**Nomination of FY 22-23 Officers**

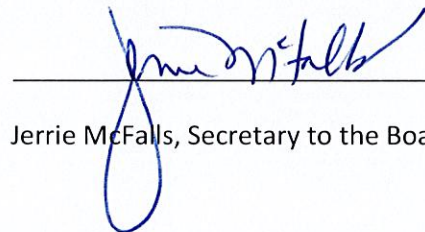
Dr. Hensley opened for nominations for vice-chair for the 22/23 fiscal year. Dr. Hensley nominated Melinda Lowrance as vice-chair. No other nominations were submitted. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Judy Smith nominated Josh Simpson as the Board Chair for the 22/23 fiscal year. No other nominations were submitted. All voted in favor and the motions passed.

H. Adjournment

Chair Hensley asked if there were any additional items for discussion, none were presented. Dr. Hensley adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

 7/19/22  
Board Chair Date

  
Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – June 2022
- II. June Employees of the Month
- III. May 2021 – May 2022 Statistical Report
- IV. Program Administrator's Report – June 2022
- V. Financial Report May 2022