

Henderson County Board of Social Services

December 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Josh Simpson at 12:11 pm.

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Judy Smith, Member Rebecca McCall, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board/Director via phone Lorie Horne, Social Work Program Administrator Joseph Maxey Jr., Administrative Officer Debby Freeman, Economic Services Program Administrator Deborah Johnson, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk
Guest	None

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

D. Approval of Minutes

Chair Simpson asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the November 15th, 2022, regular meeting, there were none. Judy Smith moved to approve the minutes as written, Rebecca McCall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Henderson County Single Audit FY21/22:

DSS is a participant in the County Single Audit each year. Medicaid cases are reviewed in addition to cases from other programs such as adoption assistance, foster care, energy programs including LIEAP (low-income energy assistance program) and CIP (crisis intervention program), LIHWAP (low-income household water assistance program), FNS (Food and Nutrition) and TANF (Temporary assistance to Needy Families and Trust Fund Accounts). This year Medicaid cases were reviewed as were LIEAP, LIWAP, CIP and TANF. We received a finding concerning income verification for a LIEAP application and rounding in CIP. The combined error amount was \$370.05. We submitted a corrective action plan for the findings. We have provided additional training to all staff who process energy applications, recorded a training that was reviewed by staff just before LIEAP season started on December 1, 2022, created 2nd party forms, and developed a checklist to be reviewed before approving benefits. We have completed the action items in the plan. We are reviewing all payments of \$600 before paying them. Workers are on rotation to process CIP and LIEAP.

The County Commissioners were presented with the Single County Audit at the last commissioner's meeting, and they have this information. The County Single Audit is for multiple county departments. DSS has a substantial piece of the Audit due to Medicaid and other federally funded programs.

Next month Director McFalls will supply more information on the Disability Rights lawsuit against the state of NC. This lawsuit is on behalf of foster children placed in partial hospitalization. Once Director McFalls receives details, she will pass the information to the Board. This lawsuit is similar to a class action lawsuit.

Chair Simpson inquired about the Medicaid expansion vote. Director McFalls stated legislature is in session January 11th, 2023. It is expected that by March, they could have a bill that would pass both chambers. We don't know when it would take effect and we don't know what the budget will be. Director McFalls has asked the state for an estimate of the number of applications, but we haven't received anything from the state.

Mrs. McCall asked Director McFalls if Medicaid expansion would be included in the January budget proposal. Director McFalls stated that DSS has compiled two different budgets. One with Medicaid expansion and one without Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion will affect how many positions we would need to add to DSS.

Chair Simpson inquired if we had received a draft bill to know how many positions to hire or to know how we need to expand. Director McFalls stated that the PHE will end soon, and we anticipate Medicaid expansion could possibly happen about the same time. All the rules and regulations will have to be added into the NC Fast system. Workers will have to learn the rules and regulations, so we are hoping for no changes to Medicaid until PHE termination changes have been put in place.

November Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

No inquiries

October 2021 – October 2022 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

No inquiries

November Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Chair Simpson asked Program Manager Lorie Horne if the 28 APS reports were an uptick. Lorie Horne stated that the number of cases continue to rise. The number of self-neglect reports has continued to go up.

Mrs. Horne reported that we had a successful toy run this year. We raised approximately \$34,000. Kids are already receiving their gifts in time for Christmas. All our foster children received toys. The Foster Parent Association took care of the teenagers. They provided teenagers with gift cards.

All our adult guardian clients were also taken care of for Christmas. They submitted their wish lists and those were all fulfilled.

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – December 2022
- II. December Employees of the Month
- III. November 2021 – November 2022 Statistical Report
- IV. Program Administrators' Report – December 2022