

Henderson County Board of Social Services

April 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Melinda Lowrance at 12:00 pm.

Board Members Present	Melinda Lowrance, Member Rebecca McCall, Member Stephen Gwaltney, 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 Amber Buchanan, Program Manager Deborah Johnson, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk
Guest	None

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

D. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Lowrance asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the March 21st, 2023, regular March meeting, there were none. Mr. Gwaltney moved to approve the minutes as written, Mrs. McCall seconded the motion. All members were polled, and the motion passed.

Closed minutes were passed out to board members by clerk Deborah Johnson. Vice Chair Lowrance asked if there were any changes to the Closed Board Minutes from the March 21st, 2023, and there were none. Mr. Gwaltney made a motion to approve as written. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All present were polled and the motion passed. Closed Minutes were collected by the clerk.

E. Board Education

Emergency Medicaid Also known as Emergency Medical Services

Amber Buchanan, Program Manager for Medicaid programs, presented the Emergency Medicaid Program to the board members.

Coverage for Emergency Medical Services

Coverage for Emergency Medical Services is a limited coverage program that only covers specific services for a limited/specific set of days.

Who is it for?

Lawfully present/undocumented aliens

Qualified aliens during their 5-year disqualification period. (After documented aliens have been here for five years, they do qualify for Medicaid)

What is an Emergency Service?

Labor and Delivery, including Caesarian Section

Other Emergency Medical Services:

Treatment for medical conditions that with the absence of immediate medical attention could result in:

- Serious jeopardy of the patient's health
- Serious impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ/part

Once the medical condition is stabilized, even if it remains serious or results in death, it is no longer an emergency.

Coverage for Emergency Medical Services can only be authorized after the emergency service has occurred.

Labor and Delivery Coverage

A client can receive between 2 – 3 days of coverage, depending on the date of admission and day of delivery.

Labor and Delivery will cover up to 5 days for Caesarean Section deliveries.

The caseworker verifies with the hospital the delivery type and the admissions and delivery dates to determine the number of days this coverage can be approved for.

Other Emergency Medical Services Coverage

Approval for Emergency Medical Services is completed by Alliant ASO (Administration Services Organization). They review the medical records submitted for each client and will approve only the days that meet the requirements listed above.

Once the caseworker receives the approved dates from Alliant, they enter only those dates into NCFast and coverage is authorized for those dates only.

Hemodialysis

Clients that receive hemodialysis go through the Emergency Services review only once. If Alliant approves them for Emergency Hemodialysis, this goes on indefinitely.

Coverage is still limited to 3 months retroactive coverage and 1 month ongoing.

Hemodialysis coverage has a special code that is entered into NCFast so that only Hemodialysis services will be approved.

Clients that need this coverage typically come in every 4 months to apply.

Other Eligibility Requirements

For clients between the ages of 19-64, disability is still a requirement for this program. This is completed through Disability Determination Services, who will review the client's medical records to determine if they meet the requirements for disability for Medicaid coverage.

Income, residency, and resources are still verified where applicable.

Vice Chair Lowrance inquired who paid once the 3-day maximum was reached for the maximum days? Mrs. Buchanan stated that would fall on the client or the hospital.

Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I) Questions Only

Director McFalls stated that legislature will be looking at the state budget. Director McFalls stated there are several bills that pertain to Social Services. Medicaid expansion is contingent upon a budget being passed. It will be a two-year budget.

Vice Chair Lowrance questioned if Director McFalls knew if SNAP would be decreased in the budget. Director McFalls stated that she had not seen anything that would cut funding. Director McFalls said that they will continue pandemic EBT cards for children in school for one more year.

Vice Chair Lowrance asked if we had any feedback from the school systems where breakfast is free to all children. Director McFalls stated that we had not received any feedback.

April Employees of the Month (Attachment II) Questions only

None

March 2022 – March 2023 Statistical Report (Attachment III) Questions only

None

April Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Mrs. Freeman stated that Economic Services is continuing training and retraining of staff since the Public Health Emergency has ended. Mrs. Freeman stated we are ending the REDA (Final Recipient eligibility Determination Audit) audit. This is an extensive 10-month Medicaid audit. The total County payback to the state for errors is a total of \$2.70. We will be starting the SA audit April 18th.

Mrs. Horne stated that March was Social Worker appreciation month. Several community partners took the opportunity to say thanks to our social workers. On March 20th the Guardian Ad Litem program hosted a Dessert Celebration for the child welfare social workers. They had homemade desserts, gift bags and door prizes. May is Foster Parent Appreciation. The Foster Parent Association is planning a Poker Run, August 5th. The Poker Run will start and end at Bold Rock Cidery. This event is to raise money for school supplies.

Mrs. Horne stated June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

**Financial Report April 2023 (Attachment V)
Questions only**

Mr. Maxey presented the April Financial Report.

Mr. Maxey stated that we will overspend on insurance, bonding and client travel. Insurance and bonding are allocated to DSS by the county based on county data. The insurance and bonding have been higher than anticipated this year. Client travel is a combination of mileage reimbursement, gas, and out of town travel. The increasing cost of insurance and fuel have increased the spending. We have a fleet of vehicles for workers to use to reduce county cost. If a fleet vehicle is not available, workers must use their personal vehicles. We have two vehicles that are currently out of services. We estimate overspending client travel by ten to twelve thousand dollars.

We have a fueling station for the county vehicles that is a significant decreased rate for fuel. We have budgeted additional requests for fleet vehicles to keep cost down.

We have only spent seventy-one percent of salaries and benefits. The total budget is on track in all other categories.

F. Old Business

DSS staffing Update

Director McFalls stated that DSS currently has fifteen vacancies. Six of the vacancies are in Social Work. Nine of the vacancies are in Economic Services. We have three in the hiring process for Economic Services. We have one additional outside candidate that is in the beginning of the hiring process for Economic Services. We still have internal moves occurring. We are hoping as we go into Medicaid expansion, to get all open income maintenance positions filled.

Director McFalls stated that in the board packet, members have the personnel report stating that our turnover rate is at 10.58 % without retirements year to date. We have had 23 turnovers out of 189 positions.

G. New Business

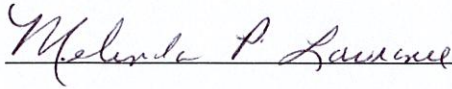
Closed Session

The members of the board went into a closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1). Mr. Gwaltney made a motion to go into closed session at 12:40 p.m. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All present were polled and the motion passed.

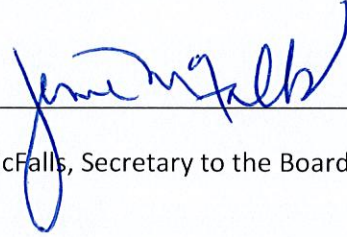
The board came out of closed session at 1:11 p.m. on a motion from Mrs. Smith. Mrs. McCall seconded the motion and the board returned to open session.

H. Adjournment

Vice Chair Lowrance asked if there were any additional items for discussion. There were none presented. Vice Chair Lowrance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Judy Smith seconded the motion. All present were polled and the motion passed. Mrs. Lowrance adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.



Melinda Lowrance, Vice -Chair Date



Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – April 2023
- II. April Employees of the Month
- III. March– March 2023 Statistical Report
- IV. Program Administrators' Report – April 2023
- V. Financial Report – April 2023