

Henderson County Board of Social Services

March 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson at 11:59 am.

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member via phone call Stephen Gwaltney, Member Rebecca McCall, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board/Director Lorie Horne, Social Work Program Administrator Melissa Novack, Finance Officer Debby Freeman, Economic Services Program Administrator Deborah Johnson, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant/ Board Clerk
Guest	None

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Rebecca McCall requested to add a closed session to the agenda. Mr. Gwaltney also wanted to provide information about the Boys & Girls Club.

D. Approval of Minutes

Chair Simpson asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the February 20th, 2024, regular meeting, there were none. Mr. Gwaltney moved to approve the minutes as written, Mrs. McCall seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Closed minutes from February 20th, 2024, were approved. Mrs. McCall motioned to approve, and Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion and the motion passed.

E. Board Education

None

F. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Questions Only

None

March Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

Questions only

None

February 2023 – February 2024 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

Questions only

None

March Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Questions only

Mrs. Horne stated there are three corrections. Bullet number four first sentence should be connected to bullet number three. **There are seventeen on the waitlist.** The last bullet under child welfare, there are:

- sixty-eight foster homes
- fifty-six licensed
- one hundred forty-six slots total

They are hoping to gain three more licenses from a MAPP class that was recently finished for foster care. Director McFalls discussed kinship placements for foster care. Kids are going with kinship families; family members, longtime family friends, or neighbors that the children have known their whole lives or feel comfortable with. These kinship families can receive financial assistance for these kinship placements. DSS still encourages families to become licensed.

Mr. Gwaltney asked if there were seventeen on the waiting list for adult services. Mrs. Horne confirmed that there is. The caseload for adult services in-home aids is fifteen.

Financial Report February 2024 (Attachment V)

Questions only

No Questions.

G. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update.

Director McFalls stated that we currently have twelve vacancies. We have hired three people that start on March 25th, 2024. We are moving in the right direction. The three external candidates are coming from Polk and Buncombe County.

H. New Business

Budget FY24/25

Chair Simpson and Mr. Gwaltney asked for a brief overview of the budget. Much of the budget is fixed based on historical data. We are requesting six new positions, three IMC II positions and three IMC I positions. The requested IMC workers will be assigned to Food Stamps (FNS). The current staff are carrying two times the state recommended caseload. The IMC I position does the groundwork to free up the caseloads for the IMC II staff. The FNS waivers are ending so there are face-to-face interviews and in-person signatures for the applications required. People who apply for food stamps are qualifying for Medicaid as well.

We are not requesting staff on the social work side. We are reclassifying some positions from child welfare due to a decrease in foster care numbers to adult services.

Also, we currently have an adult services social worker that oversees the eighteen through twenty-one-year-old youth, we are sending that caseload to child welfare.

This worker will now provide Adult Protective Services. Adult service numbers have gone up since COVID and have remained higher than before COVID.

By doing this we will be able to eliminate the wait list for in home services for adults and have the social worker required to case manage the services.

Director McFalls stated; we will be regrouping in-house to re-classify or re-write positions so that we can meet our needs without asking the county for new positions.

Mrs. McCall asked about the vehicles added to the budget and who chose them. Melissa stated that is what we are asking for and let her know we need them based on size.

Melissa stated that we have multi-sibling families that need to be transported together, and the AWD capability is a necessity. We do not always get what we ask for in vehicles. Director McFalls let the board know that we try to have a mixture of smaller and larger vehicles.

Mr. Gwaltney made a motion to approve the budget; Mrs. Lowrance seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Boys and Girls Club

Mr. Gwaltney discussed information about the Boys & Girls club. The club hired a new director Carolyn Ashworth, in June 2023 after a seven-month gap with no director. The club has had a high rate of employee turnover. Mr. Gwaltney discussed the club numbers and how they are better than they have been since 2019. The Club is now back up to around 320 people daily.

Directors Search

Karen Ensley, Human Resources Director discussed some of the parameters for hiring a new director along the OSHR guidelines.

Chair Simpson stated there are additional items for discussion; made a motion to go into closed session and Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion.

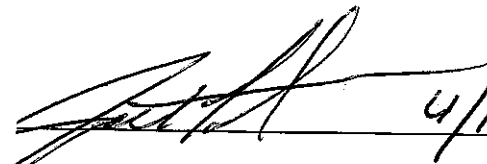
Closed Session

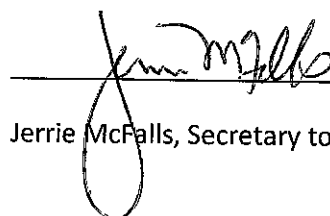
The members of the board went into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1). Mr. Gwaltney made the motion to go into closed session at 12:45 p.m. Mrs. McCall seconded the motion; all board members present agreed.

The board members came out of closed session at 1:39 p.m.

I. Adjournment

Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. All present were polled and the motion passed. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1: 39 pm.


Josh Simpson, Chair
Date 4/16/24


Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board
Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – March 2024
- II. March Employees of the Month
- III. Statistical Report – February 2024
- IV. Program Administrators' Report—March 2024
- V. Financial Report – February 2024
- VI. FY 24-25 Proposed Budget
- VII. Flyer about 2024 Joint DSS Meeting