

Henderson County Board of Social Services

April 16th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

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

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Member Melinda Lowrance, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member Judy Smith, 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 Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk
Guest	None

B. Closed Session

Chair Simpson made a motion for the board to go into closed session. The Board opened the meeting in closed session to discuss DSS employee specific matters.

C. Public Input

None

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

Closed session held before regular meeting

E. Approval of Minutes

Chair Simpson asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the March 18th, 2024, regular meeting, there were none. Mr. Gwaltney moved to approve the minutes as written, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Closed session minutes from March 18th, 2024, were approved. Mr. Gwaltney made a motion to approve Mrs. McCall seconded the motion.

F. Board Education

None

F. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Questions Only

Mr. Gwaltney mentioned the lack of publicity for child abuse prevention month. Director McFalls spoke briefly about child abuse prevention month and Safelight's involvement.

April Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

Questions only

None

March 2023- March 2024 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

Questions only

None

April Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Questions only

Mr. Gwaltney asked about the LIEAP program and the accessibility to apply for funds, and the remaining funds.

Mrs. Freeman stated that the state takes back the unused LIEAP funds and people can no longer apply.

Chair Simpson asked about the Covid waivers unwinding.

Director McFalls stated that it is still underway and will not end as originally planned. Unwinding will continue until all cases processed and are back to a recertification period. July is the targeted completion month.

Mrs. Lowrance asked about Medicaid expansion leeway. Mrs. Freeman stated that 2,841 people have applied for Medicaid expansion. She mentioned that the state estimated 6,000 applications for the year. The applications started December 1st, 2023.

Mr. Gwaltney asked how other counties were getting the word out about Medicaid expansion. Director McFalls explained that the state took that role to notify people via emails, messages, and other publicity. The state paid for and created materials to advertise Medicaid expansion.

Financial Report March 2024 (Attachment V)

Questions only

None

2nd Quarter Personnel Report

Questions only

Director McFalls explained the YTD turnover is 11% and without including retirements we are at 8%.

Mrs. McCall asked if we conduct exit interviews. Director McFalls explained that we send a written form and give staff the option to set up an appointment to speak in person.

G. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Director McFalls stated that we currently have fourteen vacancies. McFalls explained qualifications for IMC II and IMC III. Director McFalls gave details about DSS staffing and mentioned being in a good place with the personnel numbers. We currently have fourteen vacancies; we have one person starting April 22nd and had one resignation; the person is going to a state job. We have quite a few internal moves and promotions. We are moving in the right direction.

Mrs. Lowrance asked about diversity within DSS.

Director McFalls explained we do have a diverse group of staff. We have a balance of male and female associates. We never know the race of applicants and do not take that information into consideration. HR keeps much of the information confidential and we do not know details of race or background.

H. New Business

DSS Elected Board Member

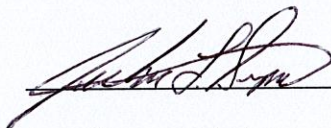
Director McFalls informed the board that Judy Smith's position will be ending in June. Director McFalls stated we have one applicant thus far for the fifth board member. Clerk Candice Fowler will email board members the Board Nomination forms.

Director McFalls explained the time schedule for the board to elect a fifth member. The Board takes nominations in May and elects in June. The new board member will be attending their first meeting in July.

At the same time, in June the board will do nominations for officers for the board for the next fiscal year. The officers will be elected in July.

I. Adjournment

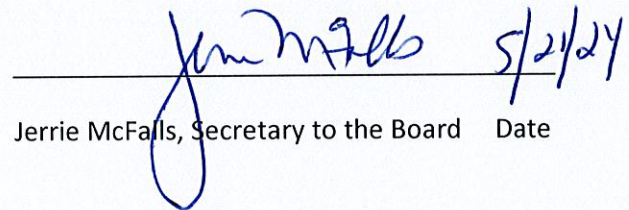
Mrs. Lowrance asked if there were any items remaining there were none presented. Mrs. Lowrance motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. McCall seconded the motion. All present were polled, and the motion passed. Mrs. Lowrance adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.



Josh Simpson, Chair

5/21/24

Date



Jerrie McFalls, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report –March 2024
- II. April Employees of the Month
- III. Statistical Report – March 2024
- IV. Program Administrators' Report –April 2024
- V. Financial Report – March 2024
- VI. 3rd Quarter Personnel Report