

Henderson County Board of Social Services

January 21st, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Gwaltney at **12:06**.

Board Members Present	Melinda Lowrance, Member via phone call Stephen Gwaltney, Member Rebecca McCall, Member Amy Holt, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Lorie Horne, Social Services Director Melissa Novack, Finance Officer Debby Freeman, Economic Services Program Administrator Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant
Guest	None

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

D. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gwaltney made a motion to approve the December 17th, 2024, minutes. Mrs. Holt moved to approve; Mrs. McCall seconded the motion. All board members present were in favor, the minutes were approved.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Questions Only

Mrs. McCall asked who qualifies for the emergency disaster funding. Mrs. Freeman stated that anyone in need can apply. Mrs. Horne let the board know that there is no limit on the number of times a person can apply and no maximum benefit for the emergency energy funds per person.

Mr. Gwaltney asked about the essential funding and if it was being used. Mrs. Horne stated that adult services has started to access the funding and child welfare is in the process of accessing funding as well.

January Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

Questions only

None

January Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Questions only

Mr. Gwaltney asked about the difficulty of finding placement for small children.

Mrs. Horne stated that it has not been difficult to find placement for small children, however for children that need a higher level of care it is a challenge.

December 2023- December 2024 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

Questions only

None

Financial Report December 2024 (Attachment V)

Mr. Gwaltney asked if the county is getting reimbursed for the expenses related to hurricane Helene. Mrs. Novack stated that with the expenses related to DSNAP we will receive 50% reimbursement.

Mrs. Novack explained some of the account definitions and gave an informative overview of the expenditures.

G. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Mrs. Horne stated that there are currently eleven vacancies with five potential candidates. Mr. Gwaltney asked if the agency is having difficulties finding qualified candidates. Mrs. Horne stated that it has been difficult to find candidates that meet all qualifications, some candidates start on a "work against" until they are qualified to have a full caseload.

H. New Business

FY 25/26 Budget Approval

Mrs. Novack let the board know that new fiscal year budget information will be sent to the members electronically in early March.


Mrs. Horne stated that we do not plan to ask for any new positions in the budget. The only big request from DSS will be for vehicles since the agency has a couple that need to be replaced.

The budget will be ready for board approval at the March meeting.

I. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gwaltney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Holt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.


Josh Simpson, Chair
2/18/25
Date


Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board
2-19-25
Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report –January 2025
- II. January Employees of the Month
- III. Statistical Report – December 2024
- IV. Program Administrators' Report –January 2025
- V. Financial Report – December 2024