

Henderson County Board of Social Services

June 17th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson at 12:06pm.

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Chair Melinda Lowrance, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member Rebecca McCall, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Lorie Horne, Social Services Director Kandi Bridges, Interim Economic Services Administrator Melissa Novack, Finance Officer Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant
Guest	None

B. Oath of Office: Stephen Gwaltney

Mr. Gwaltney was selected by the Social Services Commission to serve a second term. His term will be from 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2027. Candice Fowler, clerk to the Board, swore in Mr. Gwaltney.

C. Public Input

None

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

Add discussion item about DHHS Secretary visit and leadership training to new business and correct July meeting date on the agenda.

E. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. McCall moved to approve May 20th, 2025, regular meeting minutes, Mrs. Lowrance seconded the motion. Mr. Gwaltney moved to approve May 20th, 2025, closed session minutes, Mrs. Lowrance Seconded. All board members present were in favor; the minutes were approved.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Questions Only

Director Horne stated that we are looking for changes for Medicaid and Food and Nutrition services. Mr. Gwaltney asked about the work requirement for Medicaid.

Mrs. Bridges explained the propositions and changes for Medicaid expansion and stated there is work to do in the NCFast system.

Director Horne and Mrs. Bridges stated that many people on Medicaid are in the workforce.

June Employees of the Month (Attachment II)

Questions only

None

May 2024- May 2025 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

Questions only

June Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)
Questions only

F. Financial Report May 2025 (Attachment V)

Mrs. Novack stated that we are 91.7% spent. The budget passed with no changes from the previous meeting.

G. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Director Horne stated that we have 13 vacancies currently with 3 external candidates pending. This past month we have had one resignation and one retirement. Chair Simpson asked if there are any advantages of a more flexible work schedule. Director Horne stated that we are very flexible with staff work schedules and we do have a different schedule for on-call staff. We work with staff the best we can to accommodate flexible schedules. We offer 3 schedules, 7:30a-4:00p, 8:00a-4:30p and 8:30a-5:00p. Staff are also able to flex their time, if assuring safety or meeting mandated requirements, creates a need for adjusted schedules.

H. Secretary visit discussion

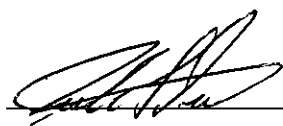
Director Horne stated that last Thursday DHHS Secretary Dev Sangvai visited the agency. We had a conversation with agency administration and program managers from services and economic services. He wanted to have conversations around our work in the agency. Dr. Dev was complimentary of staff being able to voice their concerns. He shared our concerns and asked questions to gain more information on the agency issues. Director Horne stated the visit went well and Secretary Sangvai cared about what our agency had to say.

Leadership Training

Director Horne stated that we have entered a partnership with Allies for Outcomes. This is a leadership training team with a DSS background. We had one session last week and will have another meeting next week. We have started with administration and program managers and will be getting supervisors involved later. This will be a slow process as we are investing in the department's growth and leadership.

I. Adjournment


Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at **12:43 pm**.



Josh Simpson, Chair

7/15/25

Date

 7-16-25

Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

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