

Henderson County Board of Social Services

July 15th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson at 12:00 pm

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Chair Melinda Lowrance, Member Stephen Gwaltney, Member Amy Holt, Member Jerrie McFalls, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Lorie Horne, Social Services Director Kandi Bridges, Interim Economic Services Administrator Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant
Guest	Tae Brown, Citizen Rebecca McCall, Commissioner

B. Welcome & Oath of Office: Jerrie McFalls

Mrs. McFalls was selected by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners to serve on the board. Her first term will be 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2027. Candice Fowler, clerk to the Board, swore in Mrs. McFalls.

C. Public Input

None

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

Director Horne stated we would like to recognize and say Thank You to Mrs. McCall for her service on the board and support for the work that we do.

E. DSS Board Elections

The board first voted for the vice chair position then the chair position. Director Horne asked for all board members in favor of the nominees for both positions to say I, all board members present were in favor. For the July 2025- July 2026 term Josh Simpson will serve as Chair and Stephen Gwaltney will serve as Vice Chair.

F. Approval of Minutes

No changes were requested. Mrs. Lowrance moved to approve the June 17th, 2025, minutes, Mrs. Holt seconded the motion. All board members were in favor; the minutes were approved.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Questions Only

Mr. Gwaltney asked what impact the work requirements will have on clients and staff. Mrs. Bridges explained that the work will be very time-consuming for case workers going back and forth and paperwork to make sure the requirements are met. We do not know for sure exactly what the work requirements are going to look like. There are exceptions for individuals that are unable to work.

Chair Simpson asked what the biggest challenge is. Director Horne stated right now the issue is just not knowing what is going to happen. We also worry about the Medicaid expansion piece going away if funding is decreased.

Mrs. Holt asked if the governor signed HB 612. Director Horne stated that he did sign the bill. Mrs. Holt asked about the reinstatement of parental rights. There has been a process for the reinstatement of parent rights. However, only DSS, the youth's GAL, attorney advocate or the youth could file a motion. Now with HB612 the parents will be allowed to file a motion for the reinstatement of parental rights. Mrs. Myers explained that DSS and the youth GAL still have a voice in the best interest of the child. Director Horne stated that it might be a good idea for us to have an information session about HB 612 at the board meeting in August.

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

Mrs. McFalls asked about the screened in phone calls for CPS. Mrs. Myers explained that many were I&Rs or other calls that were not actual reports, we capture all calls, even if they are not CPS reports.

G. **Financial Report May 2025 (Attachment V)**

Overall, we are underspent at 93.7%. Mrs. Holt asked what happens with the remainder of the unspent. Mrs. McCall stated that the money goes back to the county budget.

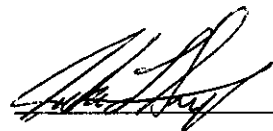
G. **Old Business**

DSS Staffing Update

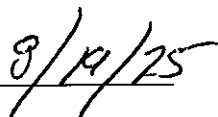
Director Horne stated that we have 15 vacancies currently, we have two candidates with start dates and 8 candidates going into the reference stage. If all candidates show up, all 5 social work positions will be filled.

H. **Adjournment**

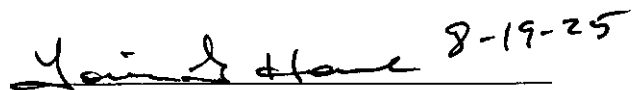
Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:46.



Josh Simpson, Chair



Date



Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

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