

Henderson County Board of Social Services

August 19th, 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 Debra Dunn, Deputy Director Kandi Bridges, Interim Economic Services Administrator Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant Amber Buchanan, Program Manager
Guest	Mary Kay, League of Women Voters

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 6/30/2028. Candice Fowler, clerk to the Board, swore in Mr. Gwaltney.

C. Public Input

None

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

E. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Holt moved to approve the July 15th, 2025, minutes, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. All board members were in favor; the minutes were approved.

F. HB 612 Board Education

Ms. Dunn explained House Bill 612 highlights and the effects it will have on the agency.

G. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Mrs. McFalls asked if the agency would have to take any clients off special assistance in-home services with the upcoming changes. Director Horne stated we are not sure at this time; it is concerning as we have many people on those services.

July 2024- July 2025 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

Questions only

August Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Mrs. Bridges explained some of the updates on the report. Mrs. McFalls asked about the D-SNAP apps that were reviewed. Mrs. Bridges explained that the only apps that were reviewed were the county employees that applied for D-SNAP.

Mrs. Lowrance asked what happens if a client cannot pay pack the food stamps error. Mrs. Bridges stated that there are payment plans in place with the client, if the client does not make the payments, the taxes will be intercepted. Mrs. Bridges added that the client's food stamp benefits can be reduced until the amount is paid if taxes are not intercepted.

Energy Outreach Program Approval

Mrs. Buchanan discussed the energy outreach program and the requirements. Mrs. Holt asked if it would be beneficial to add the United Way to the program sponsors. Mrs. Buchanan explained that United Way is aware of the program. All board members voted to approve the energy outreach program.

H. Financial Report July 2025 (Attachment V)

None

I. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Director Horne stated that we currently have four vacant social work positions, with two candidates starting on August 25th. We have seven IMC positions with three candidates scheduled to start August 25th. There are also two administration positions that are processing as well. If everything works out, we will be down to 9 vacancies.

J. Adjournment

Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:57 pm.



Josh Simpson, Chair

9/16/25

Date

 9.17-25

Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report –August 2025
- II. Statistical Report – July 2025
- III. Program Administrators' Report –August 2025
- IV. Financial Report – July 2025
- V. Energy Outreach Program