

Henderson County Board of Social Services
October 21st, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

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

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Chair Melinda Lowrance, 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 via phone Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant
Guest	Mary Kay Krokowski, League of Women Voters

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Simpson stated that we have two adjustments to the agenda. We need to add the record retention and disposition schedule for Board Action and add a closed session at the end of the meeting.

D. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. McFalls moved to approve the September 16th, 2025, meeting minutes, Mrs. Holt seconded. Mrs. McFalls moved to approve the September 16th, 2025, closed session minutes, Mrs. Holt seconded. The minutes were approved.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Director Horne discussed some of the notices and information around the government shutdown. Mrs. McFalls asked if there was enough in the HCBG revenue line to cover. Mrs. Novack stated that we have budgeted enough to cover, and it will just be a shortfall in the revenue line. Director Horne stated that Food and Nutrition benefits have been a big topic of discussion, FNS benefits will carry through the end of October. All notices about benefit delays and resources have been posted on the Henderson County website as well as social media sites. Mrs. Lowrance asked what we have in place for community members if the government continues to be shut down. Director Horne stated that we have published a resource notice to our website and social media with local food banks and resources to meet the Food and Nutrition needs of the community.

Director Horne stated that Medicaid will be funded through the first federal quarter. Mrs. Bridges stated that previous elderly and disabled LIEAP applicants will have automatic checks for December. The automatic checks are coming from previous CIPP funding that will be exhausted though those checks.

Mrs. McFalls asked about daycare funding, Mrs. Horne stated that Southwestern is currently using funding to carry them through from 2024. At this time, we don't know how long daycare will be funded if the shutdown continues.

First Quarter Personnel Report

Director Horne stated that the overall turnover rate without retirements is 1.5%. Chair Simpson asked why Economic services jobs are higher in turnover. Director Horne stated that those jobs are difficult and require significant time management and people don't realize the complexity of the Income Maintenance Caseworker positions.

September 2024- September 2025 Statistical Report (Attachment III)

None

October Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Mrs. McFalls asked what house bill 612 change for foster children with child support. Mrs. Dunn stated that initially the bill read that child support would not be pursued, then switched to if the judge determines child support is in the best interest of the child, child support will be pursued. The bill also says that lack of child support cannot be used as grounds for termination.

Mrs. McFalls asked when the REDA audit started. Mrs. Bridges stated that the audit started in August. Mrs. Holt asked what the impact is for an employee that makes an eligibility error. Mrs. Bridges stated that additional training is completed for everyone, not just the employee that made the mistake.

F. Financial Report August 2025 (Attachment V)

None

Mrs. McFalls asked what the program integrity line is. Mrs. Novack stated that program integrity is working more in Medicaid and Food & Nutrition since COVID.

Mrs. McFalls asked if there is anything we are worried about in the budget, Mrs. Novack stated no not at this time.

G. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Mrs. Horne stated that we have 13 vacancies currently. Three of the 13 positions are new auxiliary positions. Six of the 13 vacancies are in the drug and background or fingerprinting clearance. So far the fingerprinting has taken around two weeks to be cleared. Mrs. McFalls asked if the county will allow contingency offers. Mrs. Horne stated that the county will not allow us to move forward without everything being cleared. Mrs. McFalls asked if there was enough availability to do the fingerprints. Director Horne stated that the Sherri's Dept has set aside two days a week for county hiring.

H. Local Government Delegation of Authority Guide

Mrs. McFalls moved to approve of the Local Government Delegation of Authority, Mrs. Lowrance seconded the motion. All board members were in favor.

Records Retention Request for Board Action

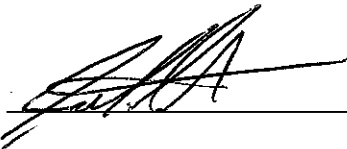
Mrs. Lowrance made a motion to approve the Records Retention Schedule; Mrs. Holt seconded the motion all board members were in favor.

I. Closed session

Chair Simpson made a motion to go into closed session at 12:29 pm.

J. Adjournment

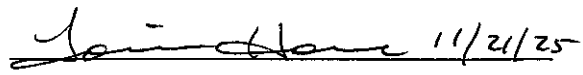
Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.



Josh Simpson, Chair

11/18/25

Date



Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board

Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report –October 2025
- II. Statistical Report – September 2025
- III. Program Administrators' Report –October 2025
- IV. Financial Report – September 2025
- V. Local Government Delegation of Authority Guide
- VI. Records Retention Request for Board Action