

Henderson County Board of Social Services  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson at 11:58 pm

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Chair Stephen Gwaltney, Vice 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 Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant Amber Buchanan, program manager Gwen Saltz, FNS Supervisor
Guest	Mary Kay Krokowski, League of Women Voters

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Simpson stated that we will add a closed session at the end of the meeting.

D. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. McFalls moved to approve the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes, Mrs. Lowrance seconded. Mrs. McFalls moved to approve the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, closed session minutes, Mrs. Lowrance seconded, the October minutes were approved.

E. Board Education: Food Stamp Misconceptions

Mrs. Saltz shared with the board about common misconceptions and facts about the Food and Nutrition program. Mrs. Holt asked if the child requirement was up to 14 years old, Mrs. Saltz stated children under 14. Mr. Gwaltney asked about undocumented individuals receiving benefits. Mrs. Saltz stated that individuals that do not meet the five years or 40 qualifying tax quarters, without proper documentation, that individual is ineligible for FNS benefits. Documentation must be verified through Homeland Security.

Mrs. Holt asked if the FNS supplement pushes people towards unhealthy processed or canned foods. Mrs. Bridges stated that the benefits are based on thrifty food plan. These benefits are based on food staples such as rice and beans. The minimum distribution is \$24, but each household is different, and eligibility is dependent upon many factors and variables. Mrs. Saltz stated that there is a farmers market program that runs from March through October. Clients can get local fresh fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Gwaltney asked about the database that is used to track when people apply for benefits. Mrs. Saltz stated that there are several federal databases and programs since the social security number must be provided.

Mrs. Holt asked how often clients are recertified. Mrs. Saltz stated that clients that work must be recertified every 6 months, for clients that are elderly or disabled, or unemployed they are recertified yearly.

Mrs. Saltz stated that as of today, clients have received or will be receiving November funding. Mrs. Bridges stated that all benefits are not distributed on the same day each month, allotments are staggered throughout the month.

**F. Reports**

**Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)**

Chair Simpson asked how much the fingerprinting has slowed down the hiring process. Director Horne stated that recently our fingerprints have been cleared in around 7 business days. Mrs. Holt asked if there is still a lag of foster parents to foster children ratio. Mrs. Dunn stated that we have not had children staying here, but we do need more foster placements. We do not have any kids that we cannot find placements for at this time. Mr. Gwaltney asked if we have talked to Crossnore about placements. Director Horne stated yes, many times throughout the years. The hold up is the level two and higher placements. We don't have any current foster parents that are willing to be trained for a higher level of care.

**October 2024- October 2025 Statistical Report (Attachment III)**

**None**

**November Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)**

Mrs. McFalls asked about what happened in Macon County with child support unit. Director Horne stated that they might have had a 100% turnover, so all the staff are new, and our child support supervisor went to assist them with training.

Mrs. McFalls asked if we think the LIEAP funds are coming. Mrs. Bridges stated that we do not have them at this time, but they are doing the automatics for aged 60 and disabled, and we will find out about the remainder of funds.

Mrs. Bridges stated that FNS will be funded through June 2026.

**F. Financial Report October 2025 (Attachment V)**

Mrs. Novack stated that over all we are 32% spent. Mrs. Holt asked what falls under professional services. Mrs. Novack stated this line covers the day sheet program, car detailing, iireception kiosk at the front desk

**G. Old Business**

**DSS Staffing Update**

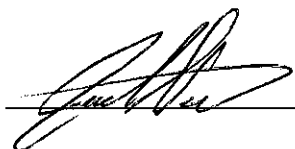
Mrs. Horne stated that we have 11 vacancies currently. We have three candidates with start dates. The three FNS positions that were on hold, we are moving forward with offers and posting. We have two positions that we are reposting.

**H. Closed session**

Chair Simpson moved the board into closed session at 1:03 pm.

I. Adjournment

Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gwaltney seconded the motion. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:22 pm.



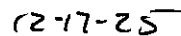
Josh Simpson, Chair



Date



Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board



Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – November 2025
- II. Statistical Report – October 2025
- III. Program Administrators' Report – November 2025
- IV. Financial Report – October 2025
- V. Food Stamp Misconceptions