

Henderson County Board of Social Services
May 19th, 2026, 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 Stephen Gwaltney, Vice Chair Melinda Lowrance, Member Amy Holt, Member Jerrie McFalls, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Lorie Horne, Social Services Director Traci Corn, Adult Services Program Manager Melissa Novack, Administrative Officer Kandi Bridges, Economic Services Administrator Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant
Guest	None

B. Public Input

None

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

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

Stephen Gwaltney stated he would like to add an item for discussion about the upcoming board vacancies.

D. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April 21st, 2026, meeting were approved by a motion from Jerrie McFalls, Stephen Gwaltney seconded.

The April 21st, 2026, closed session minutes were approved by a motion from Stephen Gwaltney, Jerrie McFalls seconded.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Director Horne discussed current bills HB 1144, HB 969, and HB 1191 and discussed advocacy letters that multiple counties are sending to Senators Budd and Tillis. The board members were in favor of the letters being sent.

April Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Melinda Lowrance asked if we are prepared for the continuing uptick in numbers for adult services. Director Horne stated no, we are not prepared at this time, we will need more staff. Jerrie McFalls asked if we will be able to keep the auxiliary positions if the new APS positions are not approved in the budget. Melissa Novack stated, yes, we have budgeted to keep the auxiliary positions.

Traci Corn stated that one of our investigators in adult services has 28 open cases and at this time we can't pull people out of rotation to catch up.

Stephen Gwaltney asked if there is any guidance or limit for cases per worker. Traci Corn stated that there was a caseload workload study, our staff participated and gave their input, but we have not gotten any results from that.

Jerrie McFalls inquired about the cause of delay with guardianship cases. Traci Corn stated that it's more of the district court slowing things down, they only hear PS order hearings on Fridays. It is a challenge to get in court within 14 days and even when we do, cases get continued; it has been challenging.

Stephen Gwaltney asked if the exploitation cases are financial, Traci Corn stated they are mostly financial cases.

**April 2025 April 2026 Statistical Report (Attachment III)
None**

F. Financial Report April 2026 (Attachment V)

Melissa Novack stated that 10 months in we are over all underspent at 76.8%.

Melinda Lowrance asked if the cost of fuel would affect the bottom line. Melissa stated that we have budgeted for the rising fuel cost.

G. Budget update

Melissa Novack discussed the unfunded items on the DSS budget. The primary focus being the unfunded positions in adult services. APS staffing is still not sufficient to meet volume and complexity for the unit.

H. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Director Horne stated that we have 11 vacancies currently. Two positions have never been filled, and we have one external candidate going through pre-employment.

Jerrie McFalls asked if we plan to fill the 2 positions that have never been filled. Director Horne stated no, we originally planned to re-class them. At this time all re-classes throughout the county have been put on hold along with new positions being unfunded.

I. Upcoming Board Vacancies

Stephen Gwaltney stated that two current board members are rolling off.

Jerrie McFalls asked if anyone applied for the Social Services Commission board seat, Director Horne stated that we have not heard anything about applicants. The Board members discussed potential candidates for the upcoming board vacancies.

J. Closed Session

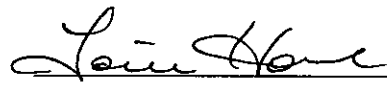
Chair Simpson made a motion to go into closed session at 1:00 pm.

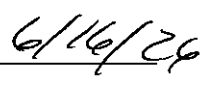
K. Adjournment

Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:23 pm.


Josh Simpson, Chair


Date


Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board


Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – May 2026
- II. Statistical Report – April 2026
- III. Program Administrators' Report – May 2026
- IV. Financial Report – April 2026