

Henderson County Board of Social Services

June 16th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

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

Board Members Present	Josh Simpson, Chair Stephen Gwaltney, Vice Chair via Zoom Melinda Lowrance, Member Amy Holt, Member via Zoom Jerrie McFalls, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Lorie Horne, Social Services Director Debbie Dunn, Deputy Director Melissa Novack, Administrative Officer Kandi Bridges, Economic Services Administrator 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 will come back to public input at the conclusion of the meeting.

D. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May 19th, 2026, meeting were approved by a motion from Jerrie McFalls, Melinda Lowrance seconded.

The May 19th, 2026, closed session minutes were approved by a motion from Jerrie McFalls, Melinda Lowrance seconded.

E. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Chair Simpson inquired about the status of the Medicaid work requirements. Kandi Bridges reported that no official policy has been issued at this time.

Jerrie McFalls asked whether staff assignments will be structured by region. Director Horne responded that the method for allocating staff across regions has not yet been determined.

Chair Simpson requested an update on the Moody case. Director Horne provided a brief overview and noted that the hearing is available on YouTube. She stated that several staff members have viewed the hearing and later discussed self-reflection, policy review, and screening procedures.

Melinda Lowrance asked whether staff will be required to listen to the Moody hearing. Director Horne explained that the hearing is eight hours long; however, portions of it may be incorporated into supervisory training and shared with staff for informational purposes.

Monthly Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Jerrie McFalls inquired about the reason for the delay in the PATH implementation. Debbie Dunn explained that there are currently system bugs that staff are working to resolve.

Amy Holt asked how many children are eligible for adoption but have not yet been matched with families. Debbie Dunn stated that she will find the requested data and provide the numbers to the Board.

May 2025 May 2026 Statistical Report (Attachment III)
None

F. **Financial Report April 2026 (Attachment V)**

Melissa Novack stated that we are 83.6% spent overall.

Jerrie McFalls asked if we are concerned about anything in the budget. Melissa Novack stated no, we received the positions that we needed and we are underspent on all other lines.

G. **Budget update**

No questions.

H. **Old Business**

DSS Staffing Update

Director Horne stated that we have 11 vacancies. There are two income maintenance positions that have never been filled, we have one candidate with a start date, as well as two pending wage requests with the county. We are aware of four upcoming retirements.

Upcoming Board Vacancies & Nomination of Officers

Director Horne stated that the board of commissioners will vote on their vacancy tomorrow June 17th, 2026. We have not received a response yet about the vacancy.

Chair Simpson stated that he would like to nominate Stephen Gwaltney as the next board chair, Stephen Gwaltney stated that he would accept.

Stephen Gwaltney stated that he would like to nominate Amy Holt as the Vice Chair.

Director Horne thanked Josh Simpson and Melinda Lowrance for their dedication and commitment to serving on the DSS Board. We appreciate the support that you both have given over the years.

I. **Adjournment**

Chair Simpson made a motion to adjourn, Stephen Gwaltney seconded. Chair Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:43pm.

Stephen Gwaltney 7-21-26

Stephen Gwaltney, Chair

Date

Lorie G. Horne 7-22-26

Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board

Date

Attachments:

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