

Henderson County Board of Social Services

July 21st, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Social Services meeting was called to order by Director Horne at 11:55 pm.

Board Members Present	Stephen Gwaltney, Chair Amy Holt, Vice Chair Jerrie McFalls, Member Shannon Auten, Member Jamie Wiener, Member
Staff Leadership Present	Lorie Horne, Social Services Director Debbie Dunn, Deputy Director Kandi Bridges, Economic Services Administrator Candice Fowler, Administrative Assistant
Guest	Mary Kay Krokowski, League of Women Voters

B. Welcome and Oath of Office:

New DSS Board members Shannon Auten and Jamie Wiener were welcomed by everyone; Candice Fowler proceeded with the oath of office for Shannon and Jamie.

C. DSS Board Elections:

Director Horne reviewed the Chair and Vice-Chair nominations that were presented during the June 16th meeting: Chair Stephen Gwaltney, Vice Chair Amy Holt. Director Horne asked all members in favor of the nominees for both positions to say I; all board members present were in favor. For the July 2026- July 2027 term Stephen Gwaltney will serve as Chair and Amy Holt will serve as Vice-Chair.

D. Public Input

None

E. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

F. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 16th, 2026, meeting was approved by a motion from Amy Holt, Jerrie McFalls seconded, the minutes were approved.

G. Reports

Director's Monthly Report (Attachment I)

Director Horne asked if the board would like to see any changes in the Director's report. Stephen Gwaltney stated that information from the state being presented to the board is important to continue. Stephen Gwaltney asked what the status is with SNAP benefits. Director Horne stated that the County is going to pay an extra 25% for the administration of the program, the admin portion starts October 1st. Director Horne explained there will be a flat rate for all counties with an additional percentage for the error rate for the FNS program.

Stephen Gwaltney asked if the majority of errors are in the client recertification process. Kandi Bridges stated yes, we need to do more education in that area.

Jerrie McFalls asked if they are focusing the use of NCFast for only economic services. Director Horne stated yes, child welfare will be moved into PATHNC, a document management system to access records for Child Welfare; it will be a big change since we have always had a paper process. Jerrie McFalls asked if the state is just going to do record reviews. Director Horne stated that we would have to upload documents or they would have to come on site to review records. Debbie Dunn stated that moving forward all of child welfare will be in PATHNC, currently 11 counties are in PATH.

Amy Holt asked about reducing use of inappropriate settings for delivery of behavioral health services in the state budget. Director Horne stated that it may have been included due to kids staying in the ED with no placement.

Stephen Gwaltney asked what the big changes are surrounding the Moody case. Director Horne stated that there will be a new escalation process and certain cases will have to be reviewed and they are hiring 7 or 8 people. Stephen Gwaltney asked if the State will get involved in all high-risk cases. Director Horne stated yes moving forward, the state will get involved, currently they do not. Debbie Dunn stated that there is a RAMS team (Regional Abuse Medical Specialist) that will review in real time and give guidance to the county agencies on high-risk cases.

Monthly Program Administrator's Report (Attachment IV)

Amy Holt asked if the number of kids without placement have more difficult cases. Debbie Dunn stated yes, usually teens with higher level needs, typically level 3 or higher.

Jerrie McFalls asked if the court is keeping up with scheduling hearings. Debbie Dunn stated yes, they are keeping up with it except for 1 case.

June 2025 June 2026 Statistical Report (Attachment III) None

H. Old Business

DSS Staffing Update

Director Horne stated that we have 12 vacancies of those 12 there are 4 positions that we have never posted. We have 2 candidates with start dates, and we are waiting on 4 wage requests. Jerrie McFalls asked if the APS supervisor position was posted. Director Horne stated yes, that is one of the wage requests that we are waiting for.

I. Energy Programs Outreach Plan

Kandi Bridges spoke about the Energy Programs Outreach Plan for the board to sign. Jerrie asked if we are receiving many calls from the elderly about cooling assistance. Kandi Bridges stated not so far, it has been quiet. Once the board votes to approve we will work with Mike Morgan to promote on social media the CIP & LIEAP funding. Jerrie McFalls moved to approve the Energy Programs Outreach Plan, Amy Holt seconded. All board members were in favor.

J. Adjournment

Chair Gwaltney made a motion to adjourn. Chair Gwaltney adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Step Gwalt 8-18-26

Stephen Gwaltney, Chair

Date

Lorie G. Horne 8-19-26

Lorie Horne, Secretary to the Board

Date

Attachments:

- I. Director's Report – June 2026
- II. Statistical Report – June 2026
- III. Program Administrators' Report – June 2026
- IV. Energy Programs Outreach Plan