

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Minutes
March 27, 2013

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 9:00 a.m., at 220 East Main Street in conference room 609 Right. The following DSS Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Newman Aguiar, Vice Chair Dr. Tara L. Fikes, Helen J. Berry, Jane Volland and Commissioner Wendy Jacobs.

The DCDSS Department was represented by the following: Pinky Davis-Boyd, Linda Hicks, Victor Isler, Toni Pedroza, Lynn Thomas, Bob Wallace, Darlene Whitfield Jovetta Whitfield and Montrella Springfield.

Director Becketts, Rhonda Stevens, Catherine Williamson-Hardy and Cynthia Cason attended NC FAST Meeting.

Deputy County Attorney Cathy Moore and Assistant County Attorney Danielle Briggs attended the Board meeting.

Board Chair Newman Aguiar called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Newman Aguiar informed board members the minutes from February 27, 2013 regular meeting and March 14, 2013 special meeting required approval. Commissioner Wendy Jacobs offered the motion for approval of the minutes from February 27, 2013 regular meeting. Vice Chair Tara Fikes seconded. The minutes for the February 27, 2013 regular meeting were approved by unanimous vote. Commissioner Wendy Jacobs offered a motion to accept the March 14, 2013 special meeting minutes. Vice Chair Tara Fikes seconded. The minutes for the March 14, 2013 special meeting were approved.

Public Comments

No Public Comments.

Proposed Agenda

Agenda approved as printed.

DSS Board Report - Chair Newman Aguiar

Chair Newman Aguiar acknowledged social workers in observance of Social Work Month.

No DSS Board Chair Report.

Director's Report - Michael Becketts

Director Becketts provided a written report with highlights and challenges over the past month along with the DSS Action Items Report.

Chair Aguiar ask if any questions with the Director's written report.

- Board members inquired about the work involved for move to the new building. Assistant Director Antonia Pedroza informed the Board; the County hired an outside vendor to assist with the move. Representatives from each program will be involved as well. The anticipated move date September.
- The big issue with the move is parking. The Director is meeting with other team members to resolve this concern.
- Director Becketts met with BOCC Chairman Fred Foster to discuss Social Services. Information requested was forward to the BOCC Chair and copies were sent to the BOCC, DSS Board and County Manager's Office.
- Commissioner Jacobs will work with Director Becketts to draft a summary on the impact of client services as it relates to changes.
- Decline in Foster Care petitions will be added to the April agenda.
- Child Welfare reorganization effective April 1, 2013. The Board requested a report in six months on the impact of the reorganization.

- Emerging senior issues.
 - DSS is collaborating with community partners relating to seniors. A DSS social worker is stationed at Durham Center for Senior Life weekly for a half day.
 - Seniors in nursing homes should not be affected by the sequestration.
 - Private home care is not receiving funding for all services provided to clients.
 - The Board suggests the next article in the Herald-Sun be centered on seniors.

Assistant Directors' Update

a. CSE, Finance and Facility Support-Antonia Pedroza

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

Child Support staff holds eight out of ten regional spots for top collections.

The Budget has been submitted.

b. Family Economic Independence-Rhonda Stevens

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

The wait list in DSS Child Care decreased due to people not working and survey responses were low. Children ages 0-5 are listed on other waiting list. Some on the wait list are being served by other agencies. Child Care Services require children to be on DSS Child Care Wait list. Director Becketts has met with the Laura Benson, Director of Durham Partnership for Children.

c. Customer Accountability and Program Development-Catherine Williamson-Hardy

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

d. Family Safety and Permanence-Jovetta Whitfield

April is Child Abuse Month. The blue pins have been distributed to represent Child Abuse Prevention Month. Various activities have been scheduled including the walk on April 25, 2013.

Seven employee selection packets in CPS have been forwarded to Human Resources with three new hires beginning April 1, 2013. Board members requesting larger print on vacancy report.

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

Relationship between Child Welfare and County Attorney

Deputy County Attorney Cathy Moore and Director Becketts are meeting monthly. Deputy County Attorney Moore met with Assistant Director Jovetta Whitfield Child Welfare Staff to discuss concerns.

Chair Aguiar informed the DSS Board he plans to step down as Chair in June, therefore, think about a new chair for the next year. Chair Aguiar inquired about additional concerns or questions requiring the DSS Board attention.

Vice Chair Tara Fikes offer a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Jane Volland. With a unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted

Chairperson

Date

Secretary to the Board

Date