

**New Hanover County  
Board of Social Services  
Minutes  
Multipurpose Room A  
9:00a.m. – 10:00a.m.**

The New Hanover County Board of Social Services met in open session on Wednesday, August 14, 2007 at 9:00 in Multipurpose Room A of the New Hanover County Department of Social Services.

ATTENDING: Ann Pitts, Chairman; Bill Caster, Vice-Chairman; John Craig; Minerva Glidden

ALSO ATTENDING: LaVaughn Nesmith, Secretary to the Board; Stephanie Monteath, Assistant to the Director

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Craig moved for approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caster and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Pitts led the invocation. Mr. Caster led the pledge of allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Craig moved for approval of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caster and passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION AGENDA**

**New Hires**

Zachary LeFaivre and Dinora Threewitts were introduced as new Family and Children Medicaid Caseworkers.

**Service Awards**

Shawndra Underwood was recognized for 10 years of service to New Hanover County. Melisa Craft was recognized for 15 years of service to New Hanover County.

**Promotions**

Gail Causey was promoted from Fiscal Support Assistant to Fiscal Support Technician.

**SSDI**

Mr. Caster asked for clarification of categories in SSDI. Wanda Marino responded.

## **County Budget Expenditures**

Carol Thiel reviewed the budget expenditures for June 2007 and explained Month 13 for year end closeout purposes.

## **Multiethnic Placement**

Mr. Caster asked what this act is. Wanda explained that it means we don't have to place a child according to ethnicity with a Foster Parent. Nesmith explained that the child's needs determine the most appropriate placement not race or ethnicity.

## **Disaster Update**

Ann Barkley gave an update on the actions taken by DSS in response to flooding in the Pines apartments and fires in the Keys apartments. Nine families were assisted with moving costs.

## **STRATEGIC ACTION AGENDA**

### **Food Stamp Guidelines**

Sam Lane introduced Gail Bullard, New Hanover County's Food and Nutrition Services Program Representative. Ms. Bullard noted the Food and Nutrition Services Program is intended to act as a supplement to a family's food. An information packet was distributed to the Board Members. Ms. Bullard reviewed eligibility criteria, benefit determination, issuance of benefits, additional program components and program accountability. Mr. Caster described his experience living on \$21.00 a week. New Hanover County July 2007 Food and Nutrition Services Statistics were perused.

### **Budget Updates**

Ninety percent of County allocated funds were spent and one-hundred percent of Federal and State allocated funds were spent.

### **Child Care Subsidy Plan**

Kathi Heslin and Sam Lane explained that NHCDSS Child Day Care Subsidy Program has determined the need for a policy change; i.e. provide clarification in the area of adults participating in GED or ABE certificate programs. John Craig moved to approve the updated Child Care Subsidy Care Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caster and passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting Objectives**

Leading by Results Overview and Recommendations

**Board Self Evaluation**

The Board completed self evaluations.

**Additional Items**

As there were no additional items to discuss as provided in G.S. 154A-98 to consider information that is confidential pursuant to G.S. 108A-80 and or G.S. 154A-98, the board by consensus adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LaVaughn Nesmith  
Secretary to the Board

Ann Pitts  
Chairman

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_