

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

The New Hanover County Board of Social Services met in open session on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 9:00 in Multi Purpose Room A of the New Hanover County Department of Social Services.

ATTENDING: John Craig, Chairman; Minerva Glidden, Vice-Chairman; Bill Caster and Evelyn Bryant

ALSO ATTENDING: LaVaughn Nesmith, Secretary to the Board; Stephanie Monteath, Administrative Support Specialist

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

Mr. Caster led the invocation. Ms. Bryant led the pledge of allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Caster moved for approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

Personnel

Stephanie Monteath recognized new staff, Margaret Burns, Adult Medicaid Caseworker and Mary Cantu, Family and Children's Medicaid Temporary Economic Services Caseworker.

Service Awards

Sue Fred was recognized for 15 years of service to New Hanover County.

Renovation Update

Ms. Bryant gave an update about renovations. Currently the project is a little over budget so contractors are submitting bids in hopes that bids will come in lower. It is predicted that work will begin on that project in February.

SSDI

Mr. Caster asked for the definition of "courtesy conflict cases". Ms. Sanders noted they are cases from other counties that NHCDSS investigates due to conflicts of interest for the other county. Mr. Caster asked about the "unduplicated" definition. Ms. McNamee explained the goal is to get a true year to date total not an average monthly number.

County Budget Expenditures

Mr. Nesmith noted that Day Care Subsidy is over budget. Some children will need to be removed from receiving service in order to stay within the budget. Currently the program is funded by State funds, stimulus money and Smart Start. When the stimulus money ends next year, there is a possibility that upwards of 600 children will be cut from receiving services. As well, the State Subsidy funding received this year was less than was originally estimated.

Compliance Office Report

Ms. Glidden asked that the Compliance Office report be signed so that it is clear who created it.

Director's Executive Report

There were no questions or comments by the Board.

STRATEGIC ACTION AGENDA

Budget Process

Ms. McNamee explained the budget process that is year round and closely connected with the agency's LBR monitoring. Ms. McNamee reviewed the guiding principles in developing the budget that are a part of the organization's mission statement. Ms. McNamee reviewed the parameters and constraints the department is dealing with due to the declining economy. Mr. Nesmith and Ms. McNamee discussed the various funding streams and explained how staff codes services to tap into those funding streams. Lastly, Ms. McNamee talked about addressing funding gaps and revising the budget to address constraints using a results driven system.

Select Date for the Budget Retreat

The Board decided the budget retreat would be held March 2, 2010 from 9:00 – 11:30. Stephanie Monteath was charged with identifying a location.

Additional Items

Mr. Nesmith recognized Julie Steinbeck whom, effective December 1, 2009, is the new Children's Services Chief and Chris McNamee whom, effective February 1, 2010, will take the helm as Assistant Director of Economic Services.

Dean Hollandsworth shared that effective October 1, 2009 a law came into effect wherein the Director must be notified before the court can place a child into DSS custody. Regina Floyd-Davis noted the usual scenario is when a 15 or 16 year old juvenile can't be placed into a training school. This law gives DSS an opportunity to share our side of the case and the difficulties the agency will face in finding placement for that child.

The agency will have a holiday lunch on December 10, 2009 from 11:30 AM – 1:30PM and the board is invited to come break bread with DSS staff.

Next Meeting Objectives

There will be a presentation on Adult Services at the January Board meeting.

Board Self Evaluation

The Board completed self evaluations.

As there were no further 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 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LaVaughn Nesmith,
Secretary to the Board

John E. Craig,
Chairman

Date approved: _____

LN: scm

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