

**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, February 2, 2010 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 Patrick Riley

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. Mr. Glidden led the pledge of allegiance.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Glidden moved for approval of the consent agenda. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### **INFORMATION AGENDA**

##### **Personnel**

Stephanie Monteath recognized Mary Cantu, Family and Children's Medicaid Caseworker and Maria Dodge Food and Nutrition Caseworker, both moving from temporary to regular positions.

##### **Promotions**

Elizabeth Currie was promoted from Social Worker Zone 2 to After-hours Social Worker Zone 3.

##### **Service Awards**

Wenda Rexroad celebrates her 20 year service anniversary and Linda Mitchell celebrates her 25th.

Frank Demeter was asked to share some words of wisdom with the board. The board thanked Mr. Demeter for 37 years of service and wished him luck in his retirement.

##### **SSDI**

It was noted that the number of people requesting Food and Nutrition services continues to rise.

Wanda Marino shared that Adult Services has been inundated with requests to serve as guardians for disabled adults. Ms. Marino explained the Adult Service unit is educating the public about the role of a guardian and asking families to serve as guardian. Most are unwilling to do so.

Ms. Marino talked about the increase in child welfare on-going treatment cases. The increase is due to our commitment to try to keep families in crisis intact and the loss of the prevention unit due to a reorganization needed to address staff retirements and frozen positions.

Christine McNamee notified the Board that a letter has been sent to the Division of Child Development requesting an additional allocation of child care subsidy funds. Funds were requested to keep us from terminating services to families due to lack of funding.

Ms. McNamee also discussed a process improvement project initiated with County IT and Food and Nutrition staff to streamline processes to better address the growing demand for service.

Mr. Nesmith noted two individuals in the nursing home under investigation are wards of DSS. DSS is in the process of moving them to a new facility but the process is lengthy.

Ms. Glidden asked if the ARRA stimulus funds assisted with the Child Care Subsidy deficit. Ms. McNamee explained that ARRA funds replaced non-recurring State funds rather than increase available funding.

### **County Budget Expenditures**

There were no questions about the Budget Expenditures.

### **Director's Executive Report**

Ms. Glidden asked why there is not a Medicaid staff person stationed at WHAT. Mr. Nesmith explained that Chris McNamee is in negotiations with the new director of WHAT to replace the Economic Services caseworker who had been stationed at the Oleander site.

Mr. Caster asked about the lobby renovation. Mr. Nesmith said the contract was in process and demolition should start within the month.

## **STRATEGIC ACTION AGENDA**

### **Communication and Outreach Efforts**

Angelina Bernard gave a presentation of the marketing efforts of the department to educate the community of our services. Ms. Bernard has worked on several commercials recently airing on Government TV and WECT for Share the Warmth and Foster Care/Adoption. Outreach was also made through brochures and flyers distributed to diverse locales, presentations by staff at events and civic and church groups. Work First, Food and Nutrition and Medicaid staff have worked with Employment Security Commission to provide information at local businesses experiencing lay-offs regarding services through the DSS Rapid Response Team.

Angelina Bernard reviewed the 2008-2009 Annual Report noting it will be passed out to different people in the community and the State.

Ms. Bernard agreed to contact Government TV to ensure that information publicized about the DSS Board is current.

**Additional Items**

The Board Retreat will be March 2, 2010 at the Cape Fear Museum at 9:00 a.m.

**Next Meeting Objectives**

Board Budget Retreat

**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 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LaVaughn Nesmith,  
Secretary to the Board

John E. Craig,  
Chairman

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

LN: scm