

**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, March 03, 2009 at 9:00 in Multi Purpose Room A of the New Hanover County Department of Social Services.

ATTENDING: John Craig, Chairman; Bill Caster, Vice-Chairman; Minerva Glidden, Patrick Riley

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. Caster moved for approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Glidden and passed unanimously.

Mr. Caster led the invocation. Mr. Riley led the pledge of allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

INFORMATION AGENDA

Personnel

Stephanie Monteath introduced Maria Dodge, Temporary Economic Services Caseworker Zone 2

Promotions

Donna Willetts was promoted from Adult Medicaid Caseworker Zone 3 to an Adult Medicaid Lead Worker Zone 4.

Service Awards

Keysha Fredlaw, Billy Helms, Brenda Knierim, Gwen Lamanna, Erica Rosario and Isabel Thompson were recognized for 5 years of service to New Hanover County. Sandra Garrett was recognized for 10 years of service to New Hanover County.

Early Retirement Incentive Package

Mr. Nesmith shared that 15 DSS staff took advantage of the County's early retirement incentive package.

Day Care Subsidy Funding

Mr. Nesmith shared that \$25,000.00 was given to NHCDSS for administrative costs in Day Care Subsidy.

SSDI

Kari Sanders noted the number of Foster Homes that dropped. This is indicative of a declining economy. Ms. Glidden asked for a definition of “courtesy conflict cases”. Jaci Jones explained it is another County’s Department of Social Service case where there could be a conflict of interest, such as a DSS worker being involved in the case.

County Budget Expenditures

Chris McNamee and Mr. Nesmith discussed the budget expenditures. Chris Coudriet called Mr. Nesmith to inform him the Medicaid relief is expected to be \$800,000.00. Mr. Caster noted the budget looks to be in pretty good shape. Ms. McNamee echoed that statement with the usual exception of administrative costs. DSS is hoping for a reallocation of TANF/Domestic Violence funds. Mr. Nesmith explained Energy Assistance (EA) funds are expected as part of the economic stimulus package.

Mr. Nesmith updated the Board on Ms. West’s departure from Child Support Enforcement and the County taking over the equipment contract. Ms. Glidden noted the contract with Child Support Enforcement should read that the “data” should belong to DSS, even if the computers do not.

STRATEGIC ACTION AGENDA

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Mr. Riley read the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation. Ms. Glidden moved to approve the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caster and passed unanimously.

Budget Update

Ms. McNamee discussed the budget noting there are no surprises. She reminded the Board that DSS has frozen 2 positions and 15 people took the Early Retirement Incentive Package (ERIP). All County Departments will be notified next week if any additional cuts will need to be made. There is a meeting on Friday, March 6, 2009 to see whether or not the County is going to support DSS’s proposed budget.

Next Meeting Objectives

Communication and Outreach Efforts
Program Integrity
Foster Parent Appreciation Proclamation

Board Self Evaluation

The Board completed self evaluations.

Additional Items

Ms. Glidden noted the word “prior” needs to be added to number 3 in the Medicaid Transportation Policy for urgent situations; less than three working day with (prior) notice.

As there were no other 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 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LaVaughn Nesmith,
Secretary to the Board

John E. Craig,
Chairman

Date approved: _____

LN: scm

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