

**New Hanover County
Board of Social Services
Minutes
October 9, 2007**

The New Hanover County Board of Social Services met in open session on Tuesday, October 9, 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; F. Wayne Morris; 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.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

INFORMATION AGENDA

New Hires

Gwendolyn Williams was introduced as the new Family and Children Medicaid Caseworker. Sandra Thorne was introduced as a new Prevention/At Risk Social Worker. Roger Sala was introduced as the new Adult Protective Service Social Worker. Wendy Davis was introduced as the new Fiscal Support Assistant. Courtney Graham was introduced as the new Administrative Support Technician. Alice Tyler and Arlease Hill were introduced as new Economic Services Caseworker Trainees.

Service Awards

Melissa Montroy was recognized for 5 years of service to New Hanover County.

Promotions

Shannon Orlando was promoted from Family and Children's Medicaid Caseworker to Prevention/At Risk Social Worker Zone 1.

SSDI

Mr. Caster noted a clerical error in Family and Children's Medicaid which will be rectified.

County Budget Expenditures

Carol Thiel reviewed the budget expenditures and explained the new format. Areas highlighted in red were discussed. Mr. Nesmith noted that Child Day Care Subsidy will once again be an area of concern in the budget.

Northside Community Center

Chris McNamee explained the study being conducted to discern if staff should be out-posted at the Northside Community Center.

STRATEGIC ACTION AGENDA

Program for the All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

Mary John Brantley introduced the PACE pilot program. This program provides an interdisciplinary team to provide care for seniors. Ms. Brantley reviewed guidelines which qualify a person to participate in PACE. The program is slated to begin December 1, 2007. Linda Pearce gave the history of PACE and how Elderhouse became involved. Ms. Pearce discussed quality of life, Medicaid pitfalls and introduced Larry Rinehart. Mr. Rinehart shared the vision of PACE and the time line for growth and self sustenance. There are 40 PACE sites in the country and Elderhouse will provide the first in North Carolina.

Adoption Proclamation

Mr. Caster read the Adoption Proclamation. Mr. Morris moved to adopt the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caster and passed unanimously.

Adult Services Update

Ann Barkley and Susan Sprenger gave a power point presentation which reviewed indicators, targets and challenges of the Adult Services program. One challenge in this program is the increasing elderly and disabled population and disproportionate number of Adult Services Staff. This challenge affects most of the indicators in this program. Susan Sprenger discussed the realignment of strategies to address program challenges: two new Adult Services staff; focus on lessening recidivism; use of innovative technology; expansion of SA In-home services; Shared guardianship; and Elder Abuse Prevention Network. Jane Jones provided information about the Elder Abuse Prevention Network. Participation of law enforcement has really been advantageous to the committee especially in areas of fraud and elder abuse and neglect.

Thank You to Pat Melvin

The Board Chairman thanked Pat Melvin for her service to New Hanover County DSS.

Next Meeting Objectives

Funding Draw Downs and Personnel Report

Board Self Evaluation

The Board completed self evaluations.

Additional Items

Annual Audit

Mr. Morris asked how the department fared with the annual audit. Mr. Nesmith noted that the self-evaluation included in the Board packet reflects the results of that audit. Mr. Nesmith noted that the agency did have pay-backs to the State. Carol Thiel gave an update on the state of the Business Office.

Director's Performance Evaluation

The Board discussed the process they will use to complete the performance evaluation for Director Nesmith. The Board requested a copy of the Mr. Nesmith's last performance evaluation and a copy of the last staff satisfaction survey. It was agreed that each board member will complete an evaluation by November's Board Meeting. At that meeting, the Board Members will compile that information and recommend or not recommend merit. Stephanie Monteath will send the parameters for merit as per Cathy Morgan to each Board Member.

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 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LaVaughn Nesmith
Secretary to the Board

Ann Pitts
Board Chairman