

**DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**Minutes**  
**May 22, 2013**

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:00 a.m., at 220 East Main Street in conference room 609. The following DSS Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Newman Aguiar, Vice Chair Dr. Tara L. Fikes, Helen J. Berry and Jane Volland. Commissioner Wendy Jacobs excused absence.

The DCDSS Department was represented by the following: Director Michael A. Becketts, Cynthia Cason, Pinkie Davis-Boyd, Linda Hicks, Betty Hughes, Marie Johnson, Victor Isler, Toni Pedroza, Nancy Santos, Rhonda Stevens, Lynn Thomas, Bob Wallace, Darlene Whitfield, Jovetta Whitfield, Catherine Williamson-Hardy and Montrella Springfield.

Assistant County Attorney Danielle Briggs attended the Board meeting.

Public Attendee: David Reese, Director East Durham Community Initiative

DSS Board Chair Newman Aguiar called the meeting to order.

**Proposed Agenda**

Michele Lynn was added to the agenda by the Board Chair to speak with the DSS Board about their involvement in the community. Director Becketts was not aware of Michelle Lynn attending the meeting. Director Becketts will request vendors contact the Director's Office prior to attending meetings.

The work session schedule will be added to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Newman Aguiar informed board members the minutes from April 24, 2013 regular meeting and May 8, 2013 work session required approval. Board member Jane Volland offered a motion for approval of the minutes from April 24, 2013 regular meeting. Vice Chair Tara Fikes seconded. The minutes for the April 24, 2013 regular meeting were approved by unanimous vote. Board member Helen Berry offered a motion to accept the

May 8, 2013 work session minutes. Board Chair Aguiar seconded. The minutes for the May 8, 2013 work session were approved.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **DSS Board Report - Chair Newman Aguiar**

DSS Board Work Session

➤ June 13, 2013

Board Policy and Procedures

- Board member Helen Berry is working on this project. Comments from the Board should be forwarded to Board member Berry.
- Add to June Agenda for review and approval.

### **David Reese, Executive Director** **East Durham Community Initiative**

David Reese presented on the East Durham Children's Initiative (EDCI) commitment to change outcomes and expectations for children and families living in a 120-block area of East Durham. This initiative is modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone. EDCI plan is to provide a pipeline of high-quality services that starts with children at birth and continues with them through elementary school, middle school and high school. EDCI's services includes early childhood interventions, parent and family support, afterschool and summer programs, literacy programs, health and nutrition services, arts programs and community outreach. EDCI's target schools include YE Smith Elementary School, Neal Middle School and Southern High School.

Director Becketts forwarded a proposal to the DSS Board requesting approval to add EDCI as a priority population for Child Care Subsidy Services.

The DSS Board is supportive of the EDCI proposal: however, additional information was requested for further discussion before final approval. Rhonda Stevens and Linda Hicks will work with David Reese to develop a pilot collaborative.

### **Director's Report - Michael Becketts**

Director Becketts provided a written report with highlights and challenges over the past month along with the DSS Action Items Report.

Director Becketts mentioned the FY13/14 Budget presentation scheduled June 10, 2013 at 4:30 pm.

Director Becketts continues to build partnerships in the community.

NC FAST remains a challenge with the implementation of Phase 2 and 6. .

DSS leadership along with the Program Manager of crisis services are discussing the current caps on services to assure funds appropriated to the agency meets the necessities of the community.

Director Becketts will schedule a meeting with Reginald Johnson about the Housing Intake Coordinator.

### **Assistant Directors' Update**

#### **a. CSE, Finance and Facility Support-Antonia Pedroza**

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

State Auditor completed an extensive audit with minor corrections.

#### **b. Family Economic Independence-Rhonda Stevens**

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

June is Hunger Awareness Month. Food bags will be given to individual at Duke Street on June 11, 2013 from 11:30 am to 1:00pm.

NC FAST remains a challenge along with a program audit to being conducted in June.

#### **c. Customer Accountability and Program Development-Catherine Williamson-Hardy**

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

Program Integrity collected \$416,126 which is 101% of the goal.

One challenge with the process change, more applications are coming in via fax and mail. Over 900,000 documents scanned versus 621,000 last year. Temporary staff assignments ending June 30<sup>th</sup> will impact staff workload.

Quality Assurance monitoring has been suspended in Family Economic Independence for a few months due to NC FAST training.

**d. Family Safety and Permanence-Jovetta Whitfield**

June is Older American Month. The Board of County Commissioners will read the Proclamation on May 28, 2013.

Adult Services will be hosting Celebration of Life on June 13, 2013 at St. Phillips Episcopal Church.

**Unfinished Business**

Mission and Vision Statement

- Feedback has been forward to Board members and will be discussed at the next work session.

Strategic Plan

- Moving forward with the strategic plan.

Action Items

- A revised copy of the action items has been provided to the Board.

Michele Lynn was invited by the DSS Board Chair to the meeting. Michele Lynn drafts the newsletter for DSS and wanted to speak with Board members about publishing an article about their involvement in the community. Board members will forward information to Ms. Lynn.

Chair Aguiar inquired about additional concerns or questions requiring the DSS Board attention. Vice Chair Tara Fikes offered a motion to move to closed session The Board will adjourn to Closed Session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6). The motion was seconded by Board Member Jane Volland. With a unanimous vote the meeting moved to closed session at 11:20 am.

The meeting was re-opened with no action taken. The meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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Chairperson

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Date

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Secretary to the Board

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Date