

**DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**Minutes**  
**September 25, 2013**

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 9:00 a.m., at 220 East Main Street in conference room 609 Right. The following DSS Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Dr. Tara L. Fikes, Vice Chair Newman Aguiar, Commissioner Wendy Jacobs and Jane Volland.

Board member Helen J. Berry received an excused absence.

The DCDSS Department was represented by the following: Director Michael A. Becketts, Shelia Dorsett, Mary Flounoy, Betty Hughes, Victor Isler, Marie Johnson, Toni Pedroza, Robyn Riley, Shauna Shaw, Nancy Santos, Rhonda Stevens, Lynn Thomas, Bob Wallace, Catherine Williamson-Hardy, Darlene Whitfield and Montrella Springfield.

DSS Board Chair Dr. Tara L. Fikes called the meeting to order.

**Proposed Agenda**

The proposed agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Dr. Tara L. Fikes informed board members the minutes from August 25, 2013 regular meeting and September 12, 2013 work session required approval. Vice Chair Aguiar offered a motion for approval of the minutes from August 25, 2013 regular meeting. Board member Jane Volland seconded. The minutes for the August 25, 2013 regular meeting were approved. The minutes from the September 12, 2013 work session were approved with a motion from Vice Chair Aguiar and seconded by Commissioner Wendy Jacobs.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **DSS Board Report - Chair Dr. Tara L. Fikes**

The Board will discuss the Board Policies and Procedures at the October work session.

## **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 and DSS Vacancies Reports.

The Human Services Complex dedication is scheduled for November 16, 2013. Director Becketts asked board members to attend if their schedules permitted.

Victor Isler will serve as Interim for Family Safety and Permanence until Jovetta Whitfield returns to the office. Director Becketts presented Betty Hughes with a retirement plaque and acknowledge her commitment to DSS Child Welfare. A plaque was also given to Toni Pedroza for her dedication to the DSS. Ms. Pedroza accepted the DSS Director vacancy in Vance County.

NC FAST challenges continue, but the backlog is decreasing. Currently the impact of the Affordable Care Act is unknown. The issues with NC FAST may cause problems with health care, medication and equipment. Meetings have been scheduled with community partners to discuss the Affordable Care Act.

A suggestion was made to contact Senator Woodard about the difficulties Durham is experiencing with NC FAST. Vice Chair Aguiar will reach out to the Senator. The State is sending staff to assist with the backlog in counties. Director Becketts will forward information to the Board about the number of backlog at Durham DSS. Board members also suggested educating the community about issues resulting in delays in Food and Nutrition Services.

The Rotary Club will be coordinating a food drive and requesting DSS involvement. Director Becketts will contact the County Manager about a countywide food drive.

The DSS Board acknowledged Ms. Hughes and Ms. Pedroza for the commitment to DSS and wish them well in their new endeavors.

## **Assistant Directors' Update**

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

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

The request for the additional priority to the Child Care Wait List was submitted to DCDEE for approval. September 16, 2013, Phase 2 and 6 of NC FAST was soft launched. The State came out with new NC FAST instructions on Sunday, September 15, 2013 to begin Monday and it was a disaster. Management assisted in the reception area with customers. New applications will be entered into NC FAST with limited Medicaid applications. Two systems will be used to complete and process all applications. Training will begin for the Affordable Care Act.

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

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

DSS expended 14% of the budget and drew down 9% of the projected revenue as of August 31, 2013. The personnel cost was at 5% of the projected budget expense that resulted in \$983,350.96 in lapsed salaries.

Child Support had seven staff on the top collections list in the region. Sylvia Cotton made a one-time collection of \$12,323.00.

The external County Audit has been completed with one issue with day sheets. The follow-up audit on gift cards was completed with no found issues. Accounting is utilizing NCTRACKS.

Shauna Shaw and Gary Meares have worked hard to make the transition to the new facility painless as possible. They should be commended for the time and effort they have contributed to move. The next few weeks will be consumed with staff moving as scheduled. Move Coordinators will assist staff with concerns.

**b. Customer Accountability and Program Development-Catherine Williamson-Hardy**

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

Management staff recognized staff for their commitment and support.

**c. Family Safety and Permanence-Victor Isler, Interim**

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

Child Placement and Permanence Services is partnering with Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center to establish a Foster Care Clinic.

The Community Child Protection Team was re-established and met on September 26, 2013. Board member Jane Volland volunteered for the team.

Referrals for the Thanksgiving Dinner and Share Your Christmas will begin October 1, 2013. The database should be up and running.

The Adolescent Parenting Program was a success.

**Unfinished Business**

Board Action Items were updated.

The staff vacancies list was distributed and reviewed.

DSS Board Work Session and Tour scheduled for October 10, 2013

The Durham Community Assessment information has been placed on the intranet under DSS Board Agenda and Reports for Board members to review.

Chair Tara L. Fikes inquired about additional concerns or questions requiring the DSS Board attention. Vice Chair Newman Aguiar offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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