

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Minutes
October 23, 2013

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:00 a.m., at 414 East Main Street in conference room 2421. The following DSS Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Dr. Tara L. Fikes, Vice Chair Newman Aguiar, Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, Helen J. Berry and Jane Volland.

The DCDSS Department was represented by the following: Director Michael A. Becketts, Pinkie Davis-Boyd, Cynthia Cason, Linda Hicks, Kay Fields, Mary Flounoy, Victor Isler, Robyn Riley, Shauna Shaw, Nancy Santos, Rhonda Stevens, Lynn Thomas, Bob Wallace, Catherine Williamson-Hardy, Darlene Whitfield and Montrella Springfield.

Assistant County Attorney Danielle Briggs attended the meeting.

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 September 25, 2013 regular meeting and October 10, 2013 work session required approval. Vice Chair Aguiar offered a motion for approval of the minutes from September 25, 2013 regular meeting. Board member Jane Volland seconded. The minutes from the October 10, 2013 work session were approved with revisions 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 DSS Board thanked staff for their pro-active response to the Federal Government Shutdown.

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.

Accounting, Budget and Contract staff will be moving October 23, 2013 which will conclude the DSS Move for staff.

DSS Management informed the community and staff on the possible impact of the Federal Government Shutdown. Meetings were scheduled with various entities to provide understanding on potential impact.

NC FAST challenges continue. Modifications to NC FAST continues to initiate problems. Staff continue to work toward eliminating the backlogs. The number of backlogged cases are lower than reported. Backlog information will be reported weekly to the DSS Board.

It was reported that some vendors did not received payment due to glitches in NC TRACKS.

Medicaid re-certification entries to NC FAST will likely start in February or March. Meetings were arranged to discuss concerns and strategies to ensure patients have access to medication if there is a problem. There will be revisions to the Emergency Medicine Fund. The Director met with Senator Woodard to discuss the impact of NC FAST in Durham County.

The DSS Board acknowledged the commitment and leadership Durham County DSS Staff have exemplified during challenges.

The Computer 4 Kids program is being revisited to determine another avenue to distribute the computers. DSS is working with the County Manager's Office and County IT on this project.

Assistant Directors' Update

a. Family Economic Independence-Rhonda Stevens

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

There are 1,046 families/1555 children remaining on the wait list. DSS is currently working with IT to integrate Child Care Services wait list. Conversations will continue with Durham Partnership for Children and Social Services concerning Child Care in Durham.

CSE, Finance and Facility Support

Written reports have been submitted to the DSS Board.

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

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

Calls to the Call Center decreased in October. Customer Information Center Staff are working toward more effective ways to serve customers during the transitions.

c. Family Safety and Permanence-Victor Isler, Interim

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

Kay Fields joined DSS as Interim Program Manager in Child Protective Services Investigative Assessment.

Training is in place for the Thanksgiving Dinner and Share Your Christmas referrals.

Staff are working to increase the number of foster homes. Currently there are 61 foster homes. Alliance agreed to partner with Child Placement & Permanence Services to staff child welfare cases with special mental health needs. Quilts have been donated to distribute to children coming in to DSS custody.

Unfinished Business

The DSS Board Retreat is scheduled for November 21, 2013. Vice Chair Aguiar will follow-up with the facilitator. There will not be a work session in November.

The staff vacancies list was distributed and reviewed.

Assistant County Attorney Danielle Briggs briefed the Board on the information relating to the Board Policy and Procedures. The information will be forwarded to Board member Helen J. Berry to consolidate.

There was no new business on the agenda.

Vice Chair Newman Aguiar offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairperson

Date

Secretary to the Board

Date