

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, February 29, 2016

8:30 A.M. Budgeting for Results Budget Retreat

**MINUTES**

Place: Human Services Complex, Conference Room A  
414 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman Michael D. Page, Vice Chair Brenda Howerton and Commissioners  
Fred Foster, Jr., Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Reckhow

Presider: Martha Marshall

**Welcome and Overview**

County Manager Wendell Davis welcomed participants and attendees to the meeting and gave an overview of the agenda.

Martha Marshall, consultant and subject matter expert in Managing for Results and Performance Management, went over the speaking procedures during presentations and gave a summary of two (2) past budget retreats and the 2015 resident survey priorities.

Claudia Hager, Director of Budget and Management, discussed County accomplishments. **Commissioner Jacobs inquired as to how many jobs were associated with each new contract commitment made in 2015 as shown in the PowerPoint.** Director Hager did not have the information, but agreed to send it to the Commissioners.

**Managing for Results- Evaluation and Learning**

Consultant Marshall reviewed data conclusions from the Resident Satisfaction Survey. Commissioner Jacobs wondered what different components contributed to the low ratings in Durham being a good "place to raise children"—Durham was lower than the general nationwide satisfaction.

***Directive: Commissioner Reckhow requested that the Survey results regarding the transit system be submitted to GoTriangle.***

**Economic & Demographic Trends**

Director Hager discussed the recovery of Durham's economy since the Great Recession. Commissioner Foster suggested tracking the trend in job growth with respect to population growth.

Director Hager and Manager Davis discussed projected population growth and its importance when considering future investments.

Vice Chair Howerton and Director Hager discussed the implications of graphs that displayed the percentages of adults and children in poverty in Durham County. Commissioner Jacobs brought up the revitalizations and investments into the community and how they had not made much of an impact in decreasing poverty rates. Manager Davis stated that conversations about strategy needed to be had to ensure the future investments made deeper impacts. Commissioner Reckhow noted that immigration could have influenced the large increase in the poverty trend estimates for children aged 5-17 living in families of poverty.

Commissioner Reckhow emphasized the importance of educational outcomes and how problems with education could negatively influence other parts of the community via students not being college ready upon graduation. She suggested asking that the Board of Education focus on educational outcomes during the development of their budget. Vice Chair Howerton suggested a meeting facilitator aid in the Joint Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education meeting.

Commissioner Jacobs suggested adding “gun violence” as a priority under Goal 3 of the County Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Reckhow stated that the County needed to be more proactive in attracting a wider range of jobs including those that did not require a college degree. Chairman Page emphasized that the County needed to also focus on members of the population that were marginalized and had minimal opportunity for socioeconomic advancement such as former inmates. Marqueta Welton, Deputy County Manager, informed them that there were a few potential projects that could benefit those members of the community with limited education.

Commissioner Jacobs expressed the need to focus on prevention as well as rehabilitation. By adding gun violence as a priority, the community problems that fed into gun violence (e.g. poverty, lack of education) and the resulting issues (e.g. criminal backgrounds, unemployment rates) would both be addressed.

Commissioner Reckhow suggested asking companies and businesses that receive County development economic incentives to remove the question regarding background checks from their employment applications—it could increase employment rates for those with criminal backgrounds.

Commissioner Foster stated that they also needed to reduce the jail population via diversion programs and mental health screenings and treatments.

### **Current County Financial Condition**

George Quick, Chief Financial Officer, discussed Durham County’s financial health and described it as excellent.

Commissioner Reckhow believed that administering the Budget Public Hearing on June 13<sup>th</sup> would not allow the Board time to react to citizen comments. She requested that the Public Hearing be rescheduled to the beginning of June.

*Directive: Clerk to reschedule Budget Public Hearing for beginning of June.*

**Policy Discussion: Health and Well-being for All**

Gayle Harris, Director of Public Health, discussed the upcoming budget request for approximately \$2 million to have a school nurse at each Durham school, 47 in total. Commissioner Jacobs suggested data that would demonstrate the difference made if the request was fulfilled.

**Board Discussion: Future Investments**

Commissioner Reckhow discussed the inception of the Network of Care and the difficulty of access to services still afflicting Durham's citizens. She suggested researching the foster care system, specifically Mecklenburg County's, and how it was able to transform from being poorly managed in the late 1990s to being well managed in the 2000s. Using that information and the solutions used for the foster care system could help guide the County in improving Network of Care.

The Board went over their suggestions added to the priorities that would tentatively drive the upcoming budgeting process.

Commissioner Reckhow brought up the City's One Call number system and her desire to establish a County version. Director Hager informed her that there were efforts to either merge with the City's system or to create a standalone County hotline.

**Adjournment**

Manager Davis gave closing statements and jointly, with Director Hager, thanked Michael Davis, Strategic Initiative Manager, for his dedicated work in helping with the County Strategic Plan. Consultant Marshall ended the Budget Retreat.

Respectfully submitted,

Tania De Los Santos  
Administrative Support Assistant