

**DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**Minutes**  
**May 23, 2012**

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:30 a.m., at 220 East Main Street, conference room 609 Right. The following DSS Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Stan Holt, Commissioner Michael D. Page, Board member Newman Aguiar, Board member Jane Volland and Board member Dr. Tara L. Fikes.

The DCDSS Department was represented by the following: Interim Director Gail Perry, Ms. Antonia Pedroza, Ms. Catherine Williamson-Hardy, Ms. Rhonda Stevens, Mrs. Lynn Thomas, Ms. Betty Hughes, Ms. Cynthia Cason, Mr. Bob Wallace, Ms. Marie Johnson, Ms. Pinkie Davis-Boyd, Ms. Mary Flounoy, Ms. Ivy Taylor, Ms. Jovetta Whitfield and Ms. Montrella Springfield.

Assistant County Attorney Kathy Everett-Perry, Intern Crystal French, and Assistant County Manager Deborah Craig-Ray attended the Board meeting.

**Members of the public:** Ms. Emily Greshes from the Herald-Sun was present.

Board Chair Stan Holt called the meeting to order. Attendees were asked for a brief introduction.

**Agenda**

No changes.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Board member Newman Aguiar moved to approve the April minutes. Board member Tara L. Fikes seconded. The minutes were approved.

**County Strategic Plan Presentation: Assistant County Manager  
Deborah Craig-Ray**

Durham County is contracting with Zelos, a private consulting firm, as well as local consultant Dr. Tyrone Baines, to guide the strategic planning process; but the initiative is owned by the Board of County Commissioners, Durham County employees and the general public.

- **Goal 1:** Community and family prosperity and enrichment
- **Goal 2:** Health and well being for all
- **Goal 3:** Safe and secure community
- **Goal 4:** Environmental stewardship
- **Goal 5:** Accountable, efficient and visionary government

The County is revising the logo and website. Employees will receive new badges when implemented.

Board member Aguiar inquired about the involvement of the boards. Mrs. Craig-Ray will submit the concern to the committee at the next meeting. Mrs. Craig-Ray suggested inviting Drew Cummings to the board meeting. Board member Volland suggested meeting with Gudrun Palmer as well.

Transportation is critical for DSS clients. DSS need to be active at the table during the transportation discussion. Meetings are scheduled on the second Wednesday, 9:00 am at City Hall and Triangle Transit's meeting is May 23, 2012, 1:30 p.m. at the Hub in RTP.

Board members thanked Deborah Craig-Ray for the presentation.

**CPPS Results Based Accountability Report - Jovetta Whitfield**

Jovetta Whitfield reminder attendees May is Foster Care Month. The foster care walk was successful this year. Ms. Whitfield continued with a report on Foster Care.

❖ **Youth in Foster Care Are Safe and Stable**

- There shall be an annual increase of 50% in the total number of newly licensed foster homes (8 - 9).
- 90% of total number of licensed foster homes shall be retained & available to child welfare.
- No child shall suffer abuse, neglect or dependency in foster care (federal standard is .32%).

- 95% of initial placements of children into foster care shall be in familial settings.
- 88% of all children in foster care shall be in familiar settings.
- 90% of children in foster care less than 12 months shall experience less than two moves; excluding move into foster care (federal standard is 14%).
- 70% of children in foster care 12 - 24 months shall experience less than two moves; excluding the move into foster care (federal standard is 34.6%).
- 55% of children in foster care more than 24 months shall experience less than two moves; excluding the move into foster care (federal standard is 58.2%).
- 80% of children in foster care shall be reunified into a family or kinship placement w/in 12 months of initial placement (federal standard is 76.2%)
- 40% of children in care 12 to 24 months shall exit to placement within 24 months
- 96% of children who return home shall not re-enter foster care w/in 12 months (federal standard is 8.6%).

❖ **Youth are Prepared and Ready for School**

- 92% of children who enter (initial) DSS custody shall remain in the same school or daycare.
- 92% of all children in DSS custody who have a placement change shall remain in the same school or daycare.
- 80% of children in DSS custody shall graduate or be promoted.

❖ **In FY12 18 youth have aged out of foster care of as 4/30/12**

- 8 initially signed a CARS Agreement
- 8 went back with family
- 2 went with friends (family or girlfriend)

❖ **Strategies to Improve the results:**

- Court implementation of Child Planning Conferences
- Continued discussions with Community Partners to develop strategies regarding disproportionality
- Utilization of a Marketing Firm to develop/strengthen our Recruitment/Retention plan
- Two Foster Parents trained to co-lead MAPP
- Quarterly DSS/Foster Parent Meetings
- Meetings, every other month, with the GAL Staff
- Meetings, every other month, with County Attorneys, Judges and parent attorneys
- Implementation of Electronic Licensure

According to Ms. Whitfield there can only be five children in the home which includes biological children. Chair Holt

reported United Way matches youth savings account up to \$300.00. The DSS Board will continue discussion regarding vouchers with the Durham Housing Authority. Chair Holt thanked Ms. Whitfield for the report.

Written report included in the board packet.

**Interim Director's Report - Gail Perry**

Interim Director Perry informed the Board of the bilingual testing scheduled for June. A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

**DSS Board Report - Chair Stan Holt**

The DSS Board does not have a report this month.

**Assistant Directors' Update**

**Customer Accountability - Antonia Pedroza**

Congratulations to Child Support staff! Ten agents were on the Top Twenty Agents list for collections.

The County Manager has not made a final budget recommendation.

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

**Assistant Director's Report-Customer Accountability and Program Development - Catherine Williamson-Hardy**

The Customer Information Center received 19,952 calls, of which 469 were not picked up, giving the CIC a 2.4% dropped call rate. Management is working with each individual on their performance.

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

**Family Economic Independence - Rhonda Stevens (Written Report)**

May is Income Maintenance Worker Month and DSS will be having a celebratory brunch on May 31, 2012 at St. Phillips Episcopal Church beginning at 11:00 am.

June is Hunger Awareness Month. Lunch will provided for customers on June 7, 2012 at 11:00am at DSS facilities.

A written report has been submitted to the DSS Board.

**Family Safety and Permanence Division - (Written Report)**

Congratulations to Jovetta Whitfield. Ms. Whitfield was selected for the Assistant Director of Family Safety and Permanency.

June is Elderly Abuse Month. A proclamation will be presented at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting on June 11, 2012.

Members of the leadership team addressed the DSS Board about scheduling time to give input in regards to the selection of the new director. Chair Stan Holt will discuss with the Board and contact the leadership team.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

_____	_____
Chairperson	Date
_____	_____
Secretary to the Board	Date