

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Minutes
January 25, 2012

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 8:30 a.m., at Main Street in Conference Room 609R. The following DSS Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Stan Holt, Vice Chairman Commissioner Joe W. Bowser, 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, Mr. John Holtkamp, Ms. Antonia Pedroza, Ms. Rhonda Stevens, Mrs. Catherine Williamson-Hardy, Mrs. Lynn Thomas, Mr. David Elin, Ms. Betty Hughes, Mr. Bob Wallace, Mrs. Cynthia Cason, Mrs. Pinkie Davis-Boyd, Ms. Mary Flounoy, Mr. Willie Gibson, Mr. Frank Bryant, Ms. Jovetta Whitfield and Ms. Montrella R. Springfield.

Assistant County Attorney Danielle Briggs and Interim HR Director Elaine Hyman attended the Board meeting.

Members of the public: Ms. Virginia Bridges from the News and Observer and Ms. Samiha Khanna from the Independent Weekly were present.

Board Chair Stan Holt called the meeting to order. Attendees were asked for a brief introduction. Chair Holt and Board member Tara L. Fikes assisted with the Point-in-Time Count for the homeless Wednesday morning in Durham and Orange counties.

Agenda

The Homeless Prevention presentation will be incorporated when the guest arrive.

Public Comments

No public comments.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bowser to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2011 regular meeting and seconded by member Jane Volland. The minutes were approved as written by the DSS Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bowser and seconded by member Jane Volland to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2012 Special Meeting. The minutes were approved as written by the DSS Board.

Interim Director's Report (Written Report) - Gail Perry

1. Bilingual Certification

- Interim Director Perry and the Leadership Team have discussed the certification training with Human Resources.

2. Guardianship

- The Durham Center will become a sub-division of the State effective July 1, 2012.
- The Durham Center will be merging with Wake on July 1, 2012 changing from a LME to MCO- Managed Care Entity.
- The Durham Center merger is pending approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

DSS Board Chair Report - Chair Stan Holt

1. February Follow-up

- o Budget
- o Disproportionality
- o Director Recruitment

2. No additional reports

Assistant Director's Report

Budget - Antonia Pedroza

- The DSS Budget will be presented to the DSS Board at the February meeting.
- Program managers presented budget request and their RBA to the Leadership Team.
- The DSS Board will schedule an additional meeting to review the budget before the February meeting.
- Written report included in board packet.

Family Economic Independence - Rhonda Stevens

- Replacement request for the Work First Planning Committee and Work First Advisory Board.
- For the 24-month Time Limits
 - Primary - Board member Jane Volland
 - Secondary - Vice Chair Joe W. Bowser
- For the 60-month Time Limits
 - Primary - Chair Stan Holt
 - Secondary - Board member Newman Aguiar
- Work First Planning Committee
 - Board will speak with Board member Dr. Tara L. Fikes about attending the Work First Planning Committee meetings.
- Child Care
 - Six hundred letters were sent out from the waiting list (41% did not respond). A few reasons why responses are not received: 1) Families moved; Parents are not working, therefore, no longer qualify and; Letters are returned without forwarding address.
 - Random calls are made to confirm letters are received by clients on the waiting list
- Written report included in board packet.

Family Safety and Permanency - John Holtkamp

- Mr. Holtkamp and Board member Jane Volland will report on Disproportionality in February.
- Written report included in board packet.

Customer Accountability Division - Catherine Williamson-Hardy

- Written Report included in board packet.

Director Recruitment Timeline

- The director vacancy has been posted electronically and other entities which include American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), National Association of Counties (NACO), National Association of Social Workers and others.
- Applications are coming in slowly.
- Human Resources will follow the same procedures from the previous recruitment process.
- Recruitment will be extended through February 22, 2012.
- The Board will review all qualified applications.

- The Board will extend an invitation to the County Manager and BOCC Chairman to be on the internal interview panel.
- Board members will send names of people in their network they would invite to participate on the external panel to Board member Volland by February 15, 2012.
- Staff will be asked to forward questions to Human Resources for screening.
- The recruitment process will be refined.
- Board Member Jane Volland will continue to work with Human Resources and pass on information to the DSS Board.
- The DSS Board will make the final decision on candidates.

Child Care

- Last year there was conversation with the community concerning Child Care.
- The Task Force consisted of several representatives including Social Services, Operation Breakthrough, Durham Partnership for Children, and Child Care Services Association.
- Representatives from the agency, parents, child care providers and community participated on the Task Force.
- Sub-committees were created within the committee to research child care in Durham.
- A notebook was generated with information from the Task Force and distributed to the DSS Board, Director and forwarded to the County Manager.
- Each subcommittee produced minutes and recommendations.
- Following review from the County Manager, the information was to be placed as an agenda item for the Board of County Commissioners. Chair Holt will contact the County Manager.
- Approximately \$1M is needed to partially serve the children on the waiting list which will be reoccurring cost.

Guardianship

- The DSS Board will discuss planning a meeting with state representatives.

- Approximately \$1800.00 is spent per guardianship without reimbursement.
- Bob Wallace spoke with the Director of Mental Health. Mental Health will continue to provide services to fifty wards currently under their guardianship.
- DSS will request additional funds in the budget to assist with guardianship.
- Legislative concerns will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Homelessness prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) - Frank Bryant and Willie Gibson

A total of 60 households were assisted with HPRP funding. Five households returned to homelessness.

HPRP provided financial assistance to 146 households since January 2010. This was 16.8% above expectation of 125. The total cost was \$322,492.16. The average income \$17,259.42 and average household expenditure was \$1,265.19.

Out of 132 discharged households, 6 have not been able to maintain housing.

Chair Stan Holt asked for additional comments or questions. A motion was made by Vice Chair Bowser and seconded by member Jane Volland to adjourn the regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Chairperson	Date

Secretary to the Board	Date

