

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

Monday, May 3, 2004

9:00 A.M. Worksession

AGENDA

1. Citizen Comments

15 min.

1. Mr. Jack Steer has requested time on the agenda to address Durham County's FY 2004-05 Budget.
2. Mrs. Carolina James Rivera will speak to the Board of County Commissioners on several issues.
3. Reverend Rona Tankard has requested to speak to the Commissioners about property taxes for the Power in the Word Ministry church facility.

2. Truancy Intervention Project

20 min.

The Honorable Craig Brown and the Honorable Ann McKown have requested time on the agenda to update the Commissioners on the approved Governor's Crime Commission Pre-Application for the Truancy Intervention Project and discuss sources and options for the required 25% cash match.

Nationwide, truancy is recognized as a gateway to school failure, gang involvement, and criminal activity. In 2003, the Durham Crime Cabinet identified truancy as a priority problem, with Durham Public Schools' attendance ranking 110 of 117 school districts. The creation of school-based truancy courts in all DPS middle schools shows great promise but lacks the ability to ensure follow-through. The ten existing truancy courts also lack the ability to coordinate cases needing to be addressed in District Court.

The grant from the Governor's Crime Commission will provide the resources to create a truancy intervention strategy in Durham by connecting the community, schools, and the judicial system in a comprehensive and integrated approach. The strategy will be piloted in two middle schools, aiming to improve timeliness and effectiveness of managing truancy cases at the school level, while providing support for students and their families to improve the students' attendance.

RESOURCE PERSON(S): The Honorable Craig Brown, District Court Judge; The Honorable Ann McKown, District Court Judge; and Dr. Amy Elliott, Program Manager, Criminal Justice Resource Center

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the report.

3. Acceptance of DOT Contingency Funds to Pave Subdivision Streets

15 min.

State Senator Wib Gulley was instrumental in securing an additional \$270,000 in DOT funds for Durham County before his resignation from the Senate. The DOT has recommended that the funds be used to complete the unpaved subdivision street list. Five streets, totaling 1.39 miles, remain to be paved.

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Wib Gulley, former State Senator

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Manager recommends that the Board suspend its rules and vote to accept the funds to pave Kennebee Drive, Lakeside Drive, Mount Level Road, Horseshoe Road, and Dandy Drive.

4. Request for Court-Ordered Care Funding by the Durham Directors for the "System of Care"

Initiative

25 min.

While Durham has many things to be proud of, our community struggles to adequately meet the needs of children and their families with complex health, mental health, and socioeconomic challenges. Resources to help address these needs are often insufficient and frequently not coordinated. Durham County's human services agencies, Durham Public Schools, and representatives from the judicial system have adopted a progressive solution to address these issues. These agencies comprise the Durham Directors.

In 2002, the Durham Directors developed a Memorandum of Agreement that builds on a history of coordination and lays the groundwork for a *system of care*, which is a comprehensive, integrated community network of services and resources supported by collaboration among families, professionals, and the community. Durham's system of care links education, juvenile justice, health, mental health, child welfare, and other agencies to families, further supporting their work to ensure that children and their families have access to services and supports they need to succeed.

These efforts have resulted in an increased number of Durham's children being served in their own community. This is demonstrated by the significant decrease of court-ordered, county-financed out-of-county care. Listed below is the history of expenditures for the court-ordered care budget over the past five years:

Court-Ordered Care Budget

Year Budgeted Amount Expended

2000 \$1,892,153 \$762,302

2001 \$2,576,284 \$407,551

2002 \$1,819,726 \$133,073

2003 \$ 750,000 \$ 41,250

2004 \$ 508,590 \$ 7,125

District Court judges have the authority to order the county to pay for treatment services for children when they determine the services are needed and funding is not available. This option was rarely used until the mid 1990s when it was used frequently for both DSS child custody cases and delinquency cases. By 1999, the County had orders that required spending over \$2 million to fund services for 90 children, half of whom were in DSS custody and the other half adjudicated delinquent.

A task force was established by then County Manager David Thompson and chaired by Deputy County Manager Carolyn Titus. The task force met for a year and included representatives from DSS, The Durham Center, the courts, and Durham Public Schools. Through developed and implemented plans and protocols, the need for court-ordered placements has been virtually eliminated. In addition, the same protocols are currently being used to review plans for all residential treatment services.

In 1999, DSS had 45 children placed in residential facilities out of the county; today, the number is 11. In November 1999 when the final report of this committee was presented to the Board of County Commissioners, the plan was to reinvest court-ordered care funds to develop a continuum of care in Durham County. The reinvestment never occurred because of a FY 2000-01 budget shortfall.

The community is making progress, and our efforts are gaining widespread recognition. However, key problems and gaps exist in our system of services and supports. To implement fully this integrated system of services and resources, we must provide training; support coordination between providers, agency staff, and families; develop new protocols for integrated policies and procedures; and provide education and support to families and temporary staff to facilitate this transition period. Thus, the Durham Directors requests the following resources:

Resource	Need	Amount (annualized)	Comments
A. Staff Support	Half-time (0.5 FTE) includes benefits	\$ 25,000	Temporary staff to support interagency implementation work group
B. Facilitators	Contracted	\$ 25,000	To support child-specific interagency planning and service delivery
C. Paraprofessional Support	2 FTEs	\$ 76,000	To provide logistical support to child-specific interagency planning and service delivery
D. Family/Peer Support	1 FTE	\$ 60,000	To provide family-to-family education and support
E. Transportation	Cab and bus fares	\$ 14,000	To help children and families better access services and supports
F. Community Meeting space	Fees for use	\$ 10,000	To help bring services and supports to where children and families need them
Total		\$210,000	

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dan Hudgins, Social Services Director; Brian Letourneau, Health Director; Ellen Holliman, Director, The Durham Center; Adele Spitz-Roth and Martha Kaufman, Durham Family Initiative Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University; and Wendell M. Davis, Deputy County Manager

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the presentation and put forward questions related to the item. Given that this request is to reduce the court-ordered care budget, the Manager further recommends that the Board consider this matter during FY 2004-05 budget deliberations.

5. Annual Report of the Durham Planning Commission

20 min.

The Durham Board of County Commissioners and the Durham City Council established the Durham Planning Commission through an Interlocal Agreement. The Annual Report for 2003 is provided in conformance with the requirements of that Interlocal Agreement. The Annual Report outlines the Commission's activities for the past year in accomplishing its mission.

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Jackie Brown, Chairperson of the Durham City-County Planning Commission

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the Annual Report for 2003.

6. Amendment of the Durham County Animal Ordinance

30 min.

Chapter 4 of the Durham County Code of Ordinances regulates the keeping of animals within the county and establishes the general administration of Durham County Animal Control. The ordinance was last amended in 2001. This year, significant changes are proposed to increase fees and penalties, to prohibit certain dangerous animals from being kept in the county, and to clarify or reflect the current manner in which the County administers the Animal Control program. A subcommittee of the Animal Control Advisory Committee met over the past 18 months reviewing and revising the ordinance. The proposed changes were submitted to the Advisory Committee, which approved the changes and recommends them to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Although not required by law, the Board may choose to set a public hearing to be held at the next regular session (May 10, 2004).

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Mike Turner, General Services Director; Cindy Bailey, Animal Control Administrator; and Carol W. Hammett, Assistant County Attorney

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Manager recommends that the Board consider the proposed amendment to Chapter 4 of the Durham County Code of Ordinances and suspend the rules to set a public hearing to be held on May 10, 2004 regarding the proposed amendments to the Durham County Animal Ordinance.

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8. Facility Options for Welcome Baby Program

10 min.

The Board is requested to consider options for providing facilities for the Welcome Baby Resource Center. This is in response to a request that staff review other alternative facility options for Welcome Baby as noted on the March 22, 2004 Board of County Commissioner Meeting Agenda. The Welcome Baby Resource Center provides parent education classes, mentoring, volunteer training, child safety-seat training, support services, and hospital visits for parents of children birth through five years of age. The staff proposes two options for housing the program currently occupying 3,500 square feet in the Shoppe's of Lakewood.

Option A: Continue the lease with the Shoppe's at Lakewood as provided by staff on March 22, 2004. Authorize staff to enter into a new lease.

Option B: Reallocate space as needed in the County Agricultural Building to accommodate the facility needs of Welcome Baby and the space needs of the agencies currently housed in the facility. This option will require that the renovations on the Agricultural building be adjusted to accommodate the changes in space use.

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Wendell M. Davis, Deputy County Manager, and Cheryl Lloyd, County Extension Director

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Manager's recommendation is that staff be provided direction about the future leasing of space for the Welcome Baby Program.

9. Synthetic Fixed-Rate Refinancing

60 min.

The Finance Department has been entertaining a proposal from Rice Financial Products for the County to enter into a Synthetic Fixed-Rate Refinancing Agreement. This agreement is projected to save the County almost \$10,000,000 over a ten-year period in debt service. Durham County engaged Public

Financial Management, a recognized expert in the area of synthetic fixed-rate refinancing, to analyze the proposal and make a recommendation to the Board.

As such, it is requested that approximately 60 minutes be set aside for Rice Financial Products to present its proposal and Public Financial Management to analyze the proposal for the Board and entertain questions.

RESOURCE PERSON(S): George K. Quick, Finance Director

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: The County Manager recommends that the BOCC receive the presentations. (The County Manager and Finance Director will be seeking input from the Local Government Commission and the County's financial advisors before making a recommendation to the Board. Those recommendations have not yet been received.)

10. **Closed Session***

60 min.

The Board of Commissioners is requested to adjourn to closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.10(e) pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1).

*NOTE: The Closed Session will be held during lunch break between 12:15 and 1:15 p.m.

4¼ hrs.



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