

MICKA T. STANTON
DIRECTOR

County of Hoke
Department of Social Services

P.O. Box 340
RAEFORD, NC 28376-0340

TELEPHONE
(910) 875-8725

FAX
(910) 848-7766

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF

THE HOKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

June 28, 2021

A meeting of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (the “**Board**”) was held at 4:00 p.m. on June 28, 2021 in the Robert A. Wright Hoke County Agriculture Building located at 663 E. Palmer Road, Raeford, NC, pursuant to notice duly given. The following Board Members (“**BM**”), constituting a quorum, were present:

Allen Thomas, Jr., Chair (via teleconference)
Bill Evans, Vice- Chair
Brenda Branch
Linda Revels
Harry Southerland

Also present representing the Department were Terry Stanton, Director of DSS; Barbara Mena-Peña, Administrative Officer; Tera Campbell, Personnel Tech; Tammy Brewer, Family Support Services Supervisor and Johnathan Charleston, Department of Social Services Attorney.

Vice-Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed the Board to this month’s meeting. Thereafter, Vice-Chair Evans asked BM Branch to give the invocation. Vice-Chair Evans asked for public comments. There were none.

Vice-Chair Evans asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. BM Branch made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of (a) the May 24, 2021 minutes and (b) the next meeting date of July 26, 2021, which was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous. Vice-Chair Evans asked about the DSS Attorney Contract. Chair Thomas updated the Board on the changes to the contract. He mentioned that a 2.5% annual cost of living increase was added to the contract and it will increase as the contract increases. Chair Thomas stated that this will not be paid this year but the following budget year. Vice-Chair Evans asked for a motion to approve the Hoke County DSS Attorney contract. BM Southerland made the motion to include the 2.5% annual cost of living increase to the Attorney contract which was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous.

Vice-Chair Evans asked for the Child Care update from Ms. Tammy Brewer. Ms. Brewer reported that Child Care do not have updates on spending expenditures

due to the State not yet finalized. She stated that May was the end of the fiscal year for Child Care services and State was still working on finalizing expenditures for the state. Ms. Brewer updated the Board on the income limit changes which normally increases every two (2) years. She stated the last increase was July 2019 and it will increase again July 2021. Ms. Brewer mentioned State has been waiving parental fees due to COVID and she received notice last week that State has extended this waiver until October 2021. BM Revels asked if the expenditures will be reported at the next Board meeting. Ms. Brewer responded and it was discussed. Vice-Chair asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

Vice-Chair Evans asked for the Coronavirus (COVID19) Update. Director Stanton informed the Board the agency continues to operate as it has. He stated there has not been any issues nor outbreaks. He stated that everything has been going good.

Vice-Chair Evans asked for the Building (Re-open). Director Stanton explained that he wanted to get the Board's input on the agency opening back up. BM Southerland stated that the Board need to discuss and come up with a date as to when the agency should open back up. It was discussed. Chair Thomas stated his expectations are that the agency be open by next Board meeting. BM Southerland suggested a call meeting with Director Stanton about putting protocols in place for when the agency opens, a date when the agency is to open along with vaccination incentives. It was discussed. Vice-Chair asked for questions or comments. There were none.

Vice-Chair Evans asked about On-Call. Director Stanton explained to the Board the On-call process for Child Welfare and Adult Services Social Workers. He stated that the Social Workers do not get any type of stipend nor comp time when they are scheduled for On-Call duty except for when they actually get a call. Director Stanton asked the Board's suggestion on what they thought would work best for the Social Workers. Director Stanton suggested the stipend would work best for the Social Workers. It was discussed. Vice-Chair Evans asked if there were other questions or concerns. There were none. Vice-Chair Evans asked for a motion to approve a \$200 per week stipend effective immediately for Child Welfare and Adult Services Social Workers for On-Call Duty. BM Southerland made the motion and it was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous.

Vice-Chair Evans moved on to the next item on the agenda which was New Board Member Appointment. Vice-Chair Evans presented the two (2) applications of the nominees who applied for his expiring seat on the DSS Board. BM Revels nominated Carl Pevia and BM Branch nominated Virginia Chason. The vote was three to one for Virginia Chason for the Board Member seat on the DSS Board. Director Stanton asked about the election of officers. Chair Thomas stated that he would like to wait until Ms. Virginia Chason starts, to vote on new officers.

Vice-Chair Evans asked for Director Presentation. Director Stanton directed everyone to the County – Mandated Performance Requirements Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in the handout. The Board reviewed the May 2021 data and measurements of the MOA report. Director Stanton stated that due to COVID, State is not holding the agency accountable for the status of the MOA. Director Stanton elaborated on the MOA. Director Stanton asked if the Board had any questions. There were none.

Vice-Chair Evans asked for comments from the Board. Attorney Charleston mentioned that a training program is being develop to show staff in Child Welfare about things that were done wrong in another county that caused a \$6 million lawsuit. BM Southerland mentioned that some employees from DSS were disappointed by the upcoming budget. BM Southerland mentioned the employees complained about a number of things which included On-Call and raises. He recommended Director Stanton perform a study to make sure everyone in the agency is being paid based on the State rate and being paid fairly. Attorney Charleston asked if the study needed to be reported at the next board meeting on Monday, July 26, 2021. The Board agreed and it was discussed. Vice-Chair commented and thanked the Board for his time with the Board. Director Stanton presented Vice-Chair Evans with a plaque for his years of service on the DSS Board. Vice-Chair Evans asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

Vice-Chair Evans asked for a motion to adjourn. BM Revels made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by BM Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Allen Thomas, Jr, Chair

Micka T. Stanton, Secretary

Date