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MINUTES FOR MEETING OF

THE HOKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

November 30, 2020

A meeting of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (the “**Board**”) was held at 4:00 p.m. on November 30, 2020 in the Commissioners Room located in the County Administration Building (Pratt Building) at 227 N. Main St, Raeford NC, pursuant to notice duly given. The following Board Members (“**BM**”), constituting a quorum, were present:

Allen Thomas, Jr., Chair
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 Jose Coker, Department of Social Services Attorney.

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

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. BM Revels made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of (a) the October 26, 2020 minutes and (b) the next meeting date of December 14, 2020, which was seconded by BM Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked for the Peer Support Specialist Presentation. Director Stanton introduced Ms. Stephanie Hoover and Ms. Shirley Hart from First Health and Sandhill’s Opioid Consortium to present the Peer Support Specialist Program to the Board. Ms. Hoover presented an overview of the program. The program was discussed by the Board. Chair Thomas asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked for the Child Care update from Ms. Tammy Brewer. Ms. Brewer reported that the Child Care expenditures for October service month had not been received but hopes to receive them soon. She stated that spending for September was 99%. Ms. Brewer mentioned that once Child Care spending reaches 100%, a waiting list will be needed due to over spending for the state. Ms. Brewer also stated that in September the State paid providers incorrectly and is trying to make up the difference in October. She mentioned that the State has decided to provide operational grants to providers for November and December. Ms. Brewer explained that this is extra money that will be paid to providers who are open to cover staff and administrative cost as well as the employer portion of payroll taxes. Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any questions. The Board had none.

Chair Thomas asked for the Coronavirus (COVID19) Update. Director Stanton updated the Board of the process and preventive measures the agency is taking in regards to COVID19. He stated the agency continues to limit staff interactions. Director Stanton stated the agency continues to operate with half the staff in the agency and the other half teleworking. He stated the agency has opened the lobby area to the public due to the change in weather temperatures with limiting the number of people inside the lobby to five. He informed the Board the agency has tables with applications and information set up in the lobby for the public to utilize and if needed the public may be able to speak to a worker. Director Stanton stated the agency continues to enforce face coverings, monitor temperatures and six feet social distancing. Director Stanton asked if there were any questions. The Board discussed the update. Chair Thomas asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked for Director's comments. Director Stanton directed everyone to the County – Mandated Performance Requirements Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in the handout. Director Stanton mentioned the MOA will change at the beginning of the year. He stated he will provide the Board a copy of it. The Board reviewed and discussed the October 2020 data and measurements of the MOA report. Director Stanton reported to the Board the results of the Child Welfare audit and Medicaid audit. Director Stanton mentioned there is another Medicaid audit in process. He stated the audit continues through the end of the year and is unsure when the results will be received. The Board and Attorney Coker discussed the presentation. Director Stanton stated that Mrs. Mena-Pena needed to speak about the Pandemic Low Income Energy Assistance Program (PLIEAP). Mrs. Mena-Pena stated that the State has provided a Pandemic LIEAP program in hopes to assist the elderly and/or disabled from exposure during the COVID19 pandemic. She gave an overview of the program. It was discussed by the Board. Chair Thomas asked for a motion to take the Pandemic LIEAP before the County Commissioners. Vice-Chair Evans made the motion which was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked if there were any comments from the Board. Chair Thomas commented on the audits and encouraged Director Stanton to continue to do great works. Chair Thomas asked if there were any other comments. BM Southerland commented on the audits as well. Chair Thomas mentioned the County Commissioners were able to still give County employees their Christmas bonus this month to show their appreciation. Chair Thomas asked for any more comments.

There were none. Chair Thomas 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