

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Minutes
May 19, 2010

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday May 19, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at the Duke Street facility in Conference Room 2221. The following DSS Board members were in attendance: Chair Gladys Dunston, Vice Chair Newman Aguiar, Commissioner Joe W. Bowser and Mr. Stan Holt.

Mrs. Gloria S. Green received an excused absence.

The DSS Department was represented by the following: Mrs. Gerri Robinson, Mrs. Sharon Hirsch, Ms. Rhonda Stevens, Mrs. Toni Pedroza, Mr. John Holtkamp, Mrs. Cathy Simmons and Ms. Montrella R. Springfield. Mr. Thomas Jordan, County Attorney attended the meeting as well.

Ozella Maynard, student, UNC-FSU and John Tarantino, resident of Durham were present at the DSS Board Meeting.

Dr. Chip Walter and Sharon E. Loza were scheduled to present on the National Children Study. Due to time constraints, the presentation has been rescheduled to June.

The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Gladys Dunston while waiting for the guest presenters. Chair Dunston asked for amendments to the agenda. Chair Dunston suggested continuing with the agenda until presenters arrive.

Chair Dunston asked if the Board had reviewed the minutes from the DSS Board Meeting on April 21, 2010. Board Member Stan Holt made the motion to accept the minutes as written and Commissioner Joe W. Bowser seconded. The minutes stand approved. The minutes from the DSS Board Retreat on May 11, 2010 were approved with changes on page one "A summary will be provided by the Facilitator to the DSS Board about the outcome of the retreat". Board Stan Holt offered a motion for approval followed by Commissioner Joe W. Bowser second.

DSS Board Report

Chair Gladys Dunston thanked board members for attending the Management/Quality Assurance Retreat and participating in the Child Abuse Prevention Walk. Chair Dunston attended the Volunteer Reception on April 29, 2010. Chair Dunston extended her gratitude to the attendees at the board retreat. Phil Boyle, Facilitator will forward the summary and recommendations.

The East Durham Initiative at the Holton Center was well attended and the presentation was excellent.

Celebration of Seniors is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010, 11:30 a.m., followed by the Foster Parent Recognition 6:30 p.m., at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, please attend if your schedule permit.

Board Governance Policies - Board Member Stan Holt

- ❖ Positive feedback received from John Saxon at UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Government.
- ❖ Tim Jordan relayed because of state statues around the Conflict of Interest Policy, consider not restricting. Also, this is a good example for other departments.

DSS Director's Report

Special Department Meeting

- Mrs. Robinson will brief the DSS Board on the meeting during closed session.

CFST and School Social Workers

- Board member Stan Holt inquired about the status of the CFST Social Workers. Two positions were reduced due to the reduction precipitated by the State grant funding by 22%. The two positions were transferred to fill the two vacant school social work positions. School Social Workers positions will be funded for ten months. Management and Human Resources met the social workers to inform them of the change. Some school social workers have chosen to pursue other positions. School social workers will be given first priority to vacant social worker position in other programs if they meet the minimum qualifications.
- Vice Chairman Newman Aguiar had reservations about the minutes concerning funding for school social workers.

- The DSS Board approved the following:

The DSS Board values the school social workers as a high priority. The Board directs the DSS Director to continue services provided by the school social workers to the extent possible under the approved DSS Budget and in accordance with current regulations even if Durham Public Schools does not fund their portion of the said positions.

Contracts

- Senior Leadership met with 62% of the current program and service vendors. Plans for implementation of new contract management and review protocol was reviewed, best practices and draft contract monitoring review tool. Vendor feedback will be solicited via Survey Monkey.
- An internal committee which includes the leadership team, two program managers and two supervisors will provide oversight of the implementation.

DSS Board Retreat Survey

- The results from the survey of the DSS Board Retreat were distributed by Cathy Simmons for review.

Consent Agenda

Board Consent Agenda Protocol was tabled.

Assistant Director Update (Written Reports provided in packet)

Child Care - Rhonda Stevens

- The combined spending coefficient for March 2010 was 97% for subsidy and stimulus.
- Currently there are 254 families, 354 children on the waiting list. Vice Chair Aguiar affirmed a great concern regarding the waiting list.

Hearings and Appeals - Sharon Hirsch

- Board Member Stan Holt asked if a board member could facilitate final decisions and would it be beneficial if a member was assigned to the process. Ms. Hirsch noted that the policy requires staff knowledge about program policy and there is not a clear role for DSS Board Members in the hearing process. Ms. Hirsch informed the Board of the training scheduled for May 19th, for supervisors.

Chair Gladys Dunston inquired about additional concerns to be conveyed to the DSS Board. Vice Chair Newman Aguiar offered a motion to move into executive session and Chair Gladys Dunston seconded. The regular monthly meeting was adjourned by a majority vote.

Respectfully submitted

Chairperson

Date

Secretary to the Board

Date