

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Minutes
November 19, 2009

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2009, 9:00 a.m., at the Main Street facility in Conference Room 609R. The following members were in attendance: Chair Gladys Dunston, Vice Chair Newman Aguiar, Commissioner Joe W. Bowser, and Mr. Stan Holt.

The Department was represented by the following:

Mrs. Gerri Robinson, Mrs. Sharon Hirsch, Mrs. Carol Hunt, Ms. Pinkie Davis-Boyd, Ms. Rhonda Stevens, Mr. Bob Wallace, Mr. Tim Jordan and Ms. Montrella R. Springfield.

Mrs. Gloria S. Green and Mrs. Toni Pedroza received an excused absence.

The meeting was officially called to order by Vice Chair Newman Aguiar. Vice Chair Aguiar asked for amendments to the agenda. The agenda stands as printed.

There were no public comments. Stan Chambers from the News and Observer was present.

The minutes from the October 22, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as written by the Board.

Gerri Robinson presented Ms. Pinkie Davis-Boyd a Certificate of Accuracy from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), Division of Social Services. The certificate acknowledged continuous 100% accuracy in Food and Nutrition Services.

Chair Report

Vice Chair Newman Aguiar conveyed the DSS Board did not have any specific items to report.

DSS Director's Report

Mrs. Robinson informed the Board of the vacancy report attached for their review. Vacancies remain constant from month to month but well below the previous fiscal years.

Bob Wallace, Program Manager, Adult Services will begin his rotation for the interim assistant director on December 2, 2009.

Mrs. Robinson thanked Carol Hunt for serving in this capacity for the past months. Interviews will begin for this position in early January.

The results from the audit were received and the leadership team has actively worked on a corrective action plan. Chair Dunston questioned the selection criteria for the committee. The leadership team recommended committee members. Letters have been sent to community partners, city and county government staff and the faith community to join us in a workgroup. The workgroup will collaborate on best practices for contract monitoring. Commissioner Bowser inquired on how others who do not know DSS processes can assist with collaborating about contract monitoring. The main focus is best practices at the industrial and public perspectives. DSS will review other aspects of contract monitoring.

Vice Chair Newman Aguiar applauded Gerri Robinson on the handling and focus of the Work First Audit. Commissioner Joe W. Bowser disagreed with the statement by Vice Chair Newman Aguiar. Commissioner Bowser believed the audit was not up to standard and did not follow the national audit standards. Commissioner Bowser announced that he has requested this item on the next BOCC meeting agenda.

For the record, Vice Chair Newman Aguiar noted that he did not meet with the county auditor during the time of the audit review. Chair Dunston posed what would DSS get from prolonging the audit. Commissioner Bowser said that he thinks the truth should come out. According to the majority of the DSS Board, DSS staff proceeded appropriately with the contract; therefore, the Board is finished with the audit.

Assistant Director's Report

Communication, Development & Customer Information Division - Sharon Hirsch (Written Report)

The information requested from the DSS Board has been added to the DSS Management Report.

The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Project are underway. More than 100 referrals for the re-housing portion were taken at Project Homeless Connect.

A report on interns at DSS is in the board packet for your review along with a list of committee involvement for agency leaders.

The DSS website has been fully launched in Spanish.

Family Economic Independence - Rhonda Stevens (Written Report)

Work First had a total of 683 cases for November; 158 adult and 525 child only cases

DACCA continues to serve children in the six groups on the priority list. As on November 11, 2009, 2545 children (1838 families) were waiting for service. As of November 9, 2009 91 children have been issued a voucher for services since families are being removed from the waiting list.

The Qualitative and Quantitative Medicaid Report is included in the board packet.

Indicators added to the DSS Management Report were Work First; Food & Nutrition accuracy rate along with clarity; Child Support ranking and; Child Care waiting list, and how many families removed from the wait list.

Family Safety and Permanence - Carol Hunt - (Written Report)

Currently, there is no waiting list for Meals on Wheels.

Individuals are coming in for emergency assistance and the CIP money has been depleted. Bob Wallace and Willie Gibson will meet with the DSS Director.

Vice Chair Aguiar requested comments from the county attorney office. Mr. Jordan acknowledged the monthly meetings with Mrs. Robinson and the continuous involvement of the county attorneys.

Vice Chair Aguiar inquired about other concerns. Vice Chair Aguiar closed the meeting along with DSS Board member's approval.

Respectfully submitted

Chairperson

Date

Secretary to the Board

Date