

**DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**Minutes**  
**September 23, 2009**

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 23 2009, 8:00 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, Mrs. Gloria S. Green and Mr. Stan Holt. The Department was represented by the following: Mrs. Gerri Robinson, Ms. Jovetta Whitfield, Ms. Sharon Hirsch, Ms. Toni Pedroza, Ms. Mary Flounoy, Mrs. Carol Hunt, Ms. Rhonda Stevens and Ms. Montrella R. Springfield. Mr. Tim Jordan from the County Attorney's Office was in attendance.

The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Gladys Dunston. Chair Dunston asked for amendments to the agenda. The agenda stands as printed.

There were no public comments. Chair Dunston welcomed Attorney Tim Jordan to the meeting.

Chair Gladys Dunston acknowledged Jovetta Whitfield's hard work as Interim Director and presented her a token from the DSS Board.

Chair Dunston welcomed Mary Flounoy, Child Support Enforcement Manager and Carol Hunt, Community Initiatives Supervisor to the meeting.

**Results Based Accountability**

**Child Support Enforcement - Mary Flounoy**

- Goals set by the State.
- Percentage of cases with Paternity established exceeded the goal of 99% with 100.7.
- Percentage of cases for FY 09 with a child support order 85.4.
- Arrears collected 65.3%.
- Total number cases under order - 8558.
- Medical insurance ordered 66%.
- Insurance provided - 15%.

- Data comes from Data Warehouse which runs daily.
- Economic crisis has impacted Child Support.
- Where are the non-custodial parents located? - Geographic report will be presented at a later date.
- The DSS Board can help by advocating in various venues.

### **Community Initiatives - Carol Hunt**

- The uncertainty of School Social Workers Jobs for FY 2010 was frightening for staff. One worker resigned and another worker accepted a job in another program.
- Youth Services have twenty three active cases. Youth Services is working with the Judicial System to help children who are in trouble with the law.
- Adolescent Parenting Program had eighteen active cases and all seniors graduated. The Adolescent Parenting Program started a grandparents support group to help them cope with raising children with children
- Only one teen substantiated abuse and neglect.
- One hundred and seven out of one hundred forty-seven in Truancy Court made their grade.
- Social Workers will do follow-up with student drop-outs to encourage them to return to school.
- Child and Family Support Team Social Workers are working to increase the number of team meetings.
- The Board can support through community partnerships and advocating the importance of school social workers.

Vice Chair Newman Aguiar will schedule time to meet with Ms. Hunt about other concerns.

Minutes from the last DSS Board Meeting were reviewed and a correction on page 3, paragraph 3, remove Duke Street from Mrs. Gloria S. Green. Vice Chair Newman Aguiar suggested condensing the minutes. Highlight the action item and decision. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction. The motion was seconded and minutes approved.

### **Chair Report**

Chair Gladys Dunston reminded the members of the Board Retreat on October 1, 2009 at Morehead Manor. Board member Stan Holt will be the facilitator for the governance policy process.

## **Director's Report**

Recruitment for the Assistant Director's position will begin in a few weeks. The program managers will rotate in the interim position.

The County Auditor reviewing the contract will be out for a few weeks, results from the audit will be shared upon receipt from the auditor.

Staff continues to review the Child Care Waiting List. Information will be available to the DSS Board before the presentation to the Board of County Commissioners. Durham Partnership for Children requested names and addresses of parents of the children on the waiting list. The County Attorney provided a legal ruling from North Carolina legal statues which forbids sharing information without prior consent.

## **Assistant Director's Report**

### **Accountability - Toni Pedroza (Written Report)**

### **Family Economic Independence - Rhonda Stevens (Written Report)**

DACCA continues to serve children in revised wait list priority group's #1-6 during the wait list period. These groups include:

1. Those who need child care to support protective services to remain in their own home.
2. Children who are in a licensed foster home or for whom the Department of Social Services has legal custody and the foster parent or custodial parent is employed or in school.
3. Child Welfare Services (includes those in homeless shelters).
4. Work First Employment Services participants who have a current Mutual Responsibility Agreement (MRA) to show participation in the program.
5. Developmental Needs.
6. Teen parents (up to age 18) who meet other eligibility requirements.

A motion by Board Member Stan Holt to narrow the top six priorities for services to Child Care Services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joe W. Bowser. A unanimous vote by the DSS Board. The Board will review child care monthly.

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

Upcoming Dates

September 24 - DSS Partnership Series - Child Support & Work First

Cultural Awareness Luncheon and Exhibit has been rescheduled.

October 8 - Project Homeless Connect

Chair Dunston requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. A motion was made by Board member Stan Holt to adjourn the regular meeting seconded by Board member Gloria S. Green. All DSS Board members approved.

Respectfully submitted

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Chairperson

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Date

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Secretary to the Board

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Date