

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Minutes
September 15, 2010

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday September 15, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at Duke Street in Conference Room 2221. The following DSS Board members were in attendance: Chair Gladys Dunston, Commissioner Joe W. Bowser, Vice Chair Gloria S. Green and Mrs. Carolyn Carver-Tann. Mr. Stan Holt received an excused absence.

The DSS Department was represented by the following: Mrs. Sharon Hirsch, Mrs. Toni Pedroza, Mr. John Holtkamp, Ms. Rhonda Stevens, Mrs. Cathy Simmons and Ms. Montrella R. Springfield. Director Gerri Robinson was attending classes at UNC-Chapel Hill, Institute of Government.

Also present were Deputy County Attorney Tim Jordan and Mr. Jeff Goll, County Advisory Committee for Assisting Living and owner of a senior services business.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gladys Dunston. Chair Dunston asked for amendments to the agenda. John Holtkamp informed the DSS Board that the Adult Services Overview ~~will~~ would be presented in October.

Minutes

The following corrections were made to the August 18, 2010 minutes.

- Page 2 (paragraph 1) - Chair Gladys Dunston received a correspondence from the National Child Study to participate on the Community Advisory Group.
- Page 3 (paragraph 3) - Chair Dunston emphasized working with the population is sometimes frustrating, therefore, providing support to staff help how they provide services to clients which is important.
There is something to learn from the survey and taking steps are very important, Board member Carolyn Carver-Tann thinks the concerns from the survey should be addressed.

Vice Chair Green offered a motion to approve the minutes with noted changes, seconded by Commissioner Bowser. The DSS Board approved the minutes with noted changes.

Governance Policy Training Update

Mr. Holt and Mrs. Simmons met to discuss the training tool for the governance policy. A webinar will be designed for policy training. A draft and PowerPoint will be created for the training. The webinar will broadcast live October 13, 2010. Supervisors will meet on October 21, 2010 to discuss the training. Mrs. Simmons will facilitate the training. Send questions to Board member Stan Holt.

Travel Fund

Travel expenses continue to decline, approximately \$14,000.00 reduction in travel expenses in August 2010 versus August 2009.

Child Care Update

Currently, 1521 children are on the waiting list. On August 20, 2010 Division of Child Development (DCD) notified counties that quarterly allocations would be given and counties would need to maintain spending levels accordingly. As of September 8, 2010, DCD reported that counties will now be held to annual allocations. Counties must develop a business plan with DCD technical staff for under spending and over spending as a strategy to assist counties to spend according to their allocation. Durham's spending coefficient for July 2010 was 110%.

Two hundred letters were sent to families on the wait list on September 9, 2010. Replies are due in mid or late September. Results will not be available until October.

DACCA continues to serve children in the wait list priority group. If further cuts are made at the State level, the priority list may have to be reduced.

Secondary Employment

John Holtkamp and Toni Pedroza presented the Board a draft of the Secondary Employment Policy. DSS has forwarded the policy to County Human Resources for review. It was suggested by the County Attorney's Office to take a second look and refine the policy. The Board agreed to table until the next meeting. A representative from County Human Resources will be invited to the next DSS Board Meeting to clarify concerns.

DSS Chair Report

Attendees paused for a moment of silence to acknowledge the untimely death of a DSS employee.

The Board discussed and agreed to change its meeting time from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 am., effective October, 2010. Members of the Leadership Team requested moving the meeting out so data can be available for monthly reports. The Board agreed to change the meeting back to the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning in January.

Board members attended Student Intern Orientation. Director Robinson solicits DSS Board members' participation with this initiative. Interested members will discuss details with the director.

Chair Dunston and Director Robinson met with Dr. Eric Becoats, Superintendent, Durham Public Schools. The focus was on the 10-year plan and the need to get the community more involved. Dr. Becoats would like to have social workers in all schools. Dr. Becoats will hold several town hall meetings. The first session will be at Monday, September 20, Hayti Heritage Center.

The Grandparent's Conference was well attended and informative.

The National Children Study Community Advisory Group will meet today at 1:00p.m.

An invitation was received to attend the Adult Care Celebration on September 23, 2010. Contact Chris Ivy for more information.

Director Robinson is in training this week at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. Contact Toni Pedroza in her absence.

Questions were forwarded to Chair Dunston about accreditation.

1. How much will the accreditation cost the agency?
2. How will the agency pay for the accreditation?
3. What is the economic benefit for DSS?

The questions will be passed on to the DSS Director.

DSS Director's Report

Director Robinson provided the Board a written report. Cathy Simmons highlighted a few items in the report.

- High profile request for investigation of staff for lack of compliance with best practice. For more specific information contact Sharon Hirsch.
- Assistant Directors received Division specific responses from the Employee Survey Results.
- A decision regarding the procurement of consultant services should be completed by the end of the month.

- A consultant with expertise in quality assurance and Council on Accreditation (COA) standards compliance will be on site beginning in October.

Family Economic Independence - Rhonda Stevens

- An agenda action form has been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to recognize employers who attended the Work First Employer's Roundtable. This is scheduled for September 27, 2010.

Accountability - Toni Pedroza

- Three agenda items presented to the BOCC on September 13, 2010 which recognizes the following:
 1. Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Funds - \$4074
 2. The Triangle United Way - \$19,614.
 3. Contingency Funds for FNS Administration - \$236,314.
- DSS Imaging Tracking - All personnel have access to image tracking on the DSS Intranet.

Family Safety and Permanence

- Recruitment in progress to fill four social workers vacancies and a new CFST position.

Chair Gladys Dunston reiterated the next meeting will begin at 8:30 am and beginning January, the meetings will move to the fourth Wednesday.

Vice Chair Gloria S. Green offered a motion to conclude the board meeting, seconded by Board member Carolyn Carver-Tann. The meeting was dismissed by the DSS Board majority vote.

Respectfully submitted

Chairperson	Date
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Secretary to the Board	Date
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