

**DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**Minutes**  
**April 21, 2010**

The Durham County Board of Social Services held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at the Main Street facility in Conference Room 609 right. The following DSS Board members were in attendance: Chair Gladys Dunston, Vice Chair Newman Aguiar, Mrs. Gloria S. Green, Commissioner Joe W. Bowser and Mr. Stan Holt.

The DSS Department was represented by the following: Mrs. Gerri Robinson, Mrs. Sharon Hirsch, Ms. Rhonda Stevens, Mrs. Toni Pedroza, Mr. John Holtkamp, and Ms. Montrella R. Springfield.

Ciprian Domnisoru, Jessia Harris, Aleena Oberthru, Duke University Students and Billy Bryant, Durham citizen were present at the meeting.

The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Gladys Dunston. Chair Dunston asked for amendments to the agenda. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Sharon Hirsch introduced students from Duke. Ciprian Domnisoru, Jessica Harris, Aleena Oberthur and Maria Ruatto researched the access of fruits and vegetables for Senior SNAP Beneficiaries. The focal point was strategies DSS can pursue to increase access to fruits and vegetable among senior SNAP beneficiaries.

Information shared follows:

- Demographics of target population
- Limited economic resources
- Limited transportation resources
- Community stakeholders
  - o Department of Social Services
  - o Public Health
  - o Housing Authority
  - o Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Council for Senior Citizens, Urban Ministries and others
  - o Integrated Health Programs (Duke Medicine Div. of Community Health and CAARE, Inc.

Short Term Alternatives

- o Resource referral list
- o Use communication channels

## Long Term Alternatives

- o Transportation solution
- o Strengthen partnerships
- o Retail incentives
- o Partner with farmer's market

## Recommendations

- o Create a standard resource list for DSS caseworkers
- o Communicate nutrition-related information through existing channels
- o Pursue transportation solutions for low-income seniors
- o Strengthen agency partnerships to use existing programs
- o Encourage grocery retail near low income senior housing
- o Partner with the Farmer's Market and Whole Foods

Members of Board applauded the research provided by the students and acknowledged the commitment and time taken to gather the information

Chair Dunston asked if the Board had reviewed the minutes from the March 17, 2010 meeting. Board Stan Holt offered a motion for approval followed by Commissioner Joe W. Bowser second. The minutes were approved by the DSS Board.

## **DSS Board Report**

Chair Gladys Dunston highlighted various events and sessions attended by Board Members and reminded them of upcoming events:

- Children, Center for Child and Family Policy, 10-Year Celebration, Duke University
- Sharing Success Stories, which highlighted DSS and partners development and implementation of System of Care.
- Multiple Response System (MRS), evaluation of methods used for addressing Child Protective Services referrals and efforts to reduce child maltreatment.
- The Child Abuse Prevention Walk is scheduled for April 22, 2010, registration at 10:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 11:00 a.m.

Chair Dunston informed members of the revised NCACBSS Resource Manual which will be housed in the Director's office.

Vice Chair Newman Aguiar first term will expire in June. He has agreed to serve a second term on the board.

The DSS Board Retreat will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at Morehead Manor beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**Board Governance Policies - Board Member Stan Holt**

- ❖ Copies sent to County Attorney Tim Jordan and John Saxon at UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Government for review.
- ❖ Mrs. Robinson and the leadership team will review and critique performance measures.
- ❖ The final draft will be shared when all feedback is received.

Board Member Holt requested program reports from the managers returned as an agenda item to the monthly board meetings. Board member Gloria S. Green agreed the information provided by the managers clarified the program services and their current status. Mrs. Robinson will meet with the Leadership Team to work out schedules for presentations beginning July 2010.

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval to Start Child Care Wait List - Rhonda Stevens**

Division of Child Development (DCD) has requested counties to implement a wait list to avoid overspending to start the 2010/2011 fiscal year. DCD asked counties to begin April 1, 2010, but Durham Alliance for Child Care Access (DACCA) had to wait for approval of DSS Board at the April meeting. DCD has mandated that counties serve only Welfare Services, Child Protective Services, Foster Care and Work First Clients during wait list status. In order to be in compliance with the mandate DACCA is requesting approval from the DSS Board to begin a start list on April 22, 2010 and serve only the children on the prioritized list. The DSS Board voted unanimously to begin the wait list at DACCA and serve the first four groups of children on the priority list.

**DSS Director's Report**

School Social Workers

- Meeting with Debbie Pitman, Durham Public Schools; Gayle Harris, Durham Public Health and; Gerri Robinson, DSS concerning funding for school social workers.
- Social workers could possibly have a ten month schedule.
- DSS is currently waiting on DPS decision.
- If DPS does not fund their current portion, At-Risk-Funding will not be provided. This is not a mandated service.
- Mrs. Robinson will update the Board in May.

Child Care

- The Memorandum of Understanding has expired.
- Eunice Sanders from Durham Public Schools has been asked to join the Executive Leadership Team.

DSS Management Team Training

- April 22-23, First Presbyterian Church.
- The management team will train Thursday and Quality Assurance will join them on Friday.

Supervisor Meeting

- April 29, 2010, Main Street 609, 9:00 a.m.

Board members inquired about staff morale due to budget cuts and amendments in the Results Based Accountability. John Holtkamp scheduled a meeting with Family Safety & Permanence Division staff on April 21, 2010. Rhonda Stevens summarized some days are better than others. Sharon Hirsch emphasized staff are continuing to provide good customer service with the increase number of customers in the lobby. The Quality Assurance Staff will be in training on May 4, 2010. According to Toni Pedroza staff are constantly inquiring about raises. The insurance continues to rise, providing services to customers have increased, but, staff have not received a salary increase. A Staff Satisfaction Survey will be conducted June 1, 2010, results should be available to the Board during the June Board Meeting.

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 Member Stan Holt seconded. The regular monthly meeting was adjourned by a majority vote.

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