

Role and Responsibilities of the County Social Services Board

The primary role of the county social services board is to provide effective, responsible, and accountable public oversight and direction of the county social services department and to advise local government officials with respect to the development of policies and plans to improve social conditions in the county.

In order for social services boards to fulfill this role, state law authorizes them to exercise a number of specific powers and duties, including

- appointing the county director of social services (following the rules and procedures set forth by the State Personnel Act and the State Personnel Commission);
- consulting with and advising the director;
- evaluating the director's performance;
- disciplining or dismissing the director if the director engages in unacceptable personal conduct or the director's job performance is unsatisfactory (in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the State Personnel Act and the State Personnel Commission);
- assisting the director in preparing a proposed social services budget and transmitting the proposed social services budget to the board of county commissioners;
- establishing local policies for public assistance and social services programs (which must be consistent with federal and state social services laws, rules, and policies);
- advising county and municipal authorities with respect to the development of policies and plans to improve the social conditions of the community; and
- exercising such other powers and duties as the General Assembly, the state Social Services Commission, the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), or the board of county commissioners may assign.

County social services board members serve staggered three-year terms and generally may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members of the county social services board may be removed from the board before the end of their terms only for good cause and by action of the appropriate appointing authority.