

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA) OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
) STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY OF STOKES) DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
) APRIL 27, 2005

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met in recessed session (recessed from the April 25th regular meeting) in the Council Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administrative Building), located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman John Turpin
Vice-Chairman Leon Inman
Commissioner Sandy McHugh
Commissioner Joe Turpin
Commissioner Jimmy Walker

County Manager Richard Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards
DSS Director Jan Spencer

Chairman John Turpin called the recessed meeting to order.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - SOCIAL SERVICES- WORK FIRST REVISIONS(CONTINUATION)

Commissioner McHugh moved to approve the following Amendments to the Stokes County Work First Plan (2005-07):

**AMENDMENT TO THE STOKES COUNTY WORK FIRST PLAN
2005-2007**

The following revisions/clarifications were made per the request of the Economic Independence Section of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services.

- **Child Support:**
On pages 10 and 15, reference is made to increasing child support orders and collections by 2%. This has been changed to 5% in FY 06.

All references to “father” in the Plan are amended to read “absent parent.”
- **Child Welfare:**
On pages 10, 16 and 35, references to safety plans, protection plans, and assessments have been changed to read: In families where the adult members refuse to find or accept employment and are unable to meet the children’s minimum level of care, based on current statutes, the children may require placement with relatives/foster care where the child’s needs can be met. All children in the Work First program who are receiving Child Protective Services will have a safety assessment and a subsequent safety response, if necessary.
- **Substance Abuse:**
See attachment A letter from the Stokes County Attorney is attached.
- **Family Planning:**
On pages 17 and 30, reference made to family planning have been changed to read: If requested, we will refer parents and children over the age of 16, to approved family planning classes.
- **Confidentiality:**
The monthly check registers containing a list of all Work First Family Assistance recipients, their addresses, and benefit amounts will be available for public inspection, unless otherwise exempted by state law, during the regular office hours of the County Finance Officer. However, as directed by state law [N.C.G.S. §108A-80(b)], neither the registers nor the information contained therein may be used for any commercial or political purpose.

- **Medicaid:**
We will follow all Medicaid rules and regulations per the NCDHHS Family and Children's Medicaid Manual. This note has been added on pages 15, 31, and 34.
- **Child Care:**
On page 14, reference made to providing child-care for up to a two-year period has been deleted. Child-care will be provided as clients are eligible.
- **Sanctions:**
When referring to sanctions, the period of ineligibility begins at the date of the job quit or failure to meet requirement. This note has been added on pages 14, 15, 22, 34, and 38.
We will follow state guidelines for all sanctions, except where our Plan is more restrictive. This note has been added on pages 21 and 37.
- **Employment:**
On pages 19 and 41, reference is made to Community Service Programs. This has been changed to read: We will continue to refer applicants/recipients to an established Community Service Program in the community.
- **Serving families with income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level:**
On page 29, under Section VII: Change 150% to 200%.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded the motion.

The Board continued discussion concerning the submitted amendments to the Stokes County Work First Plan (2005-07).

Commissioner Walker expressed concerns about the sanction that would be imposed (for a year) by the Work First Plan for quitting a job without just cause.

Director Spencer explained the process which would occur if this sanction was imposed to the recipient.

Commissioner McHugh (Chairman of the Work First Committee) explained that the Committee's reasoning for the harsh sanction for quitting a job without good cause was to encourage Work First recipients to stay employed and be responsible. The Plan also rewards recipients for getting and keeping a job.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the sanction that would be imposed (for a year) by the Work First Plan for quitting a job without just cause and questioned other provisions in order to protect children at risk. Director Spencer confirmed those provisions were already in place.

Director Spencer stated that the Plan could and would be monitored and with this being the County's plan, amendments could be approved at anytime.

Director Spencer suggested monitoring the plan for 3 months and reporting back to the Board.

Chairman John Turpin requested that DSS monitor the plan as suggested for three months, but if problems occurred in the first month, report back to the Board.

The motion to approve the Amendments to the Stokes County Work First Plan 2005/07 carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman John Turpin entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner McHugh moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chairman Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

John M. Turpin
Chairman