

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
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DSS BOARD  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2018

The DSS Board of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a meeting at the Stokes County Department of Social Services Conference Room located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 1:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Ronnie Mendenhall  
Vice Chairman Jimmy Walker  
Board Member James D. Booth  
Board Member Ronda Jones  
Board Member Ernest Lankford

County Personnel in Attendance:  
County Manager Jake M. Oakley  
Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver  
DSS Director Stacey Elmes  
IM Administrator Cindy Joyce

Chairman Mendenhall called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Mendenhall noted that Vice Chairman Walker was not present.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Booth delivered the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Mendenhall invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Mendenhall entertained a motion to amend the October 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

Board Member Lankford moved to approve the October 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

Board Member Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for discussion.

With no further discussion, the October 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Mendenhall noted there were no individuals signed up for public comments.

### **Approval of Minutes**

DSS Board Minutes – September 17, 2018

Board Member Jones motioned to approve the minutes of the DSS Board meeting from September 17, 2018 as presented.

Board Member Lankford seconded.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

### **Information**

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to DSS Director Stacey Elmes.

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following information to the Board:

<b>Stokes County DSS Dashboard 2018</b>				
	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>ADULT SOCIAL WORK SERVICES</b>				
Guardianship Cases	26	28	27	
New APS Reports Received	25	15	8	48
APS Reports Accepted	11	11	5	27
Investigations Initiated Timely [Goal 95%]	100%	100%	100%	
Outreach Visits	10	2	2	14

In Home Aide Programs/Family Caregiver	26	36	35	
Community Alternatives Program (CAP/DA)	74	74	74	
Representative Payee	13	13	13	
SA - In-Home	62	64	64	
Placement	1	0	0	
Adult Care Homes Monitored	3	4	3	
Total Requests for CIP	32	38	17	87
CIP Expenditures				\$
	\$3,143	\$6,816	\$3,827	13,786
Total Requests for LIEAP	0	0	0	0
LIEAP Expenditures				\$
	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
Unclaimed Bodies	0	0	0	0
Staff Hours Spent at Shelters	0	0	0	0
<b>CHILD CARE SUBSIDY</b>				
Children Receiving Services	210	200	185	
Expenditures	\$80,784	\$84,685	\$82,199	\$247,668
Waiting List	243	202	199	
<b>CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES</b>				
CPS Reports Received	50	67	55	172
CPS Reports Accepted	34	31	39	104
Children Opened	64	57	70	191
Open Reports	52	48	64	
Open Case Management	18	20	16	
Courtesy Requests	7	13	9	29
Substance Affected Infants Reported to DSS	1	1	2	4
Substance Affected Infants Accepted for Inv.	1	1	2	4
Reports Initiated Timely [Goal 95%]	100%	100%	100%	
Reports Completed Timely [Goal 75%]	80%	64%	65%	
Children Remaining at Home [Goal 95%]	88%	95%	90%	
<b>CHILD SUPPORT</b>				
Number of Children Served	1,304	1,335	1,329	
Total Collections	\$201,728	\$202,085	\$204,235	\$608,048
Paternities Established	8	11	7	26
New Court Orders	11	10	11	32
<b>FISHING LICENSE WAIVERS</b>				
Fishing License Waivers	6	4	1	11
<b>FOOD &amp; NUTRITION SERVICES</b>				
Total Households	2,616	2,614	2,605	

Total Individuals	5,536	5525	5,487	
Report Card (App. Timeliness) [Goal: 95%]	99%	98%	99%	
Report Card (Recert. Timeliness) [Goal: 95%]	99%	99%	99%	
Benefits Distributed	\$ 577,455	\$ 569,737	\$ 568,748	\$ 1,715,940
	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>FOSTER CARE</b>				
Children Entering Care	8	3	7	18
Total Children in Care	92	100	93	
Children Discharged	0	3	6	9
Children in Care Over 1 Year	32	33	32	
% Receiving a Monthly Visit [Goal 100%]	100%	100%	100%	
% Visited in the Home [Goal > 90%]	77%	92%	90%	
Foster Care 18-21	8	9	10	27
Monitoring of Children No Longer in Custody	7	4	4	4
Licensed Foster Homes	19	17	16	
Sanctioned Homes	13	11	10	34
# of Individuals/Families Receiving Training	34/21	25/22	31/25	
Recruitment Events Held	0	1	0	1
Foster Care Costs (county/state/fed)	\$54,044	\$64,788	\$ 65,828	\$184,660
Children Open for LINKS	69	64	68	
Adoptions Completed	2	1	4	7
Adoption Assistance Cases	152	152	152	456
Adoption Assistance Costs (fed & state)	\$11,231	\$5,100	\$18,360	\$34,691
<b>MEDICAID [ADULT, FAMILY &amp; CHILDREN'S]</b>				
# of Cases	8,121	7,228	6,603	
Report Card (Timeliness) [Goal: 85%]	99%	100%	100%	
Public Assistance Hearings (All Areas)	4	0	7	
<b>MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Clients Served	374	364	360	
Trips Provided	1,804	2,306	1,584	5,694
Monthly Cost	\$75,195.30	\$84,875	\$ 61,859.67	\$ 221,930.23
<b>PROGRAM INTEGRITY</b>				
New Claims Established	\$ 2,140	\$ -	\$ 15,878	\$ 18,018
Total Collections	\$3,622	\$3,068	\$4,892	\$11,582
Retained in County	\$523	\$407	\$757	\$1,687
<b>SPECIAL ASSISTANCE</b>				
# of Special Assistance Cases	152	128	115	

Benefits Distributed	\$65,244	\$53,311	\$48,526	\$167,081
<b>SA/MH LIAISON</b>				
Number of Referrals during the Month	2	5	4	7
Open Cases at end of Month	39	36	31	
<b>VACANCIES</b>				
Social Work	1	1	0	2
Clerical/Income Maintenance/Child Support	0	1	0	1
<b>WORK FIRST</b>				
Total Work First Cases	56	49	45	
Number of Child Only Cases	53	48	44	
Employment Cases	3	1	1	
Referrals for Drug Testing	0	0	0	
Applicants Testing Positive	0	0	0	
Benefits Distributed	\$11,970	\$10,189	\$9,361	\$31,520
<b>OTHER</b>				
Walk-In Traffic	875	986	718	2,579

### Stokes DSS Involvement with Cardinal Innovations

September 2018

- September 12, 2018: Permanency Planning hearings held at DSS. Cardinal staff and foster care staff in attendance.
- September 18, 2018: Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee Meeting. DSS staff and Cardinal staff are committee members.
- September 18, 2018: Community Collaborative Meeting. DSS staff and Cardinal staff are committee members.
- September 19, 2018: Four county DSS Director and Cardinal meeting regarding possible pilot program for children in foster care and foster parents.
- September 20, 2018: Community Partners Meeting. Meeting facilitated by Cardinal staff. DSS staff in attendance.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/comments/questions.

Board Member Jones commented:

- This is a good report.
- I reviewed it carefully.
- You exceeded your numbers in some areas.
- Thank you for all your hard work.

Board Member Lankford commented:

- This is a good report.
- I read over it carefully.
- Thank you for the good report.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- I looked over it and it all looks great.
- When you have a dashboard of this magnitude, you and your staff have done a tremendous amount of work.
- Thank you to you and your staff for all the hard work you do every day.

(Vice Chairman Walker entered the meeting)

Board Member Booth commented:

- Thank you for the good report.
- I appreciate the hard work that goes into this.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- It seems your good reports are becoming a trend.
- You seem positive about the report.
- Thank you for all you do.

### **Audits and Technical Assistance / Child Support Enforcement**

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to DSS Director Stacey Elmes.

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following information to the Board:

- We had no errors in the Food and Nutrition.
- We are 100 percent for timeliness.
- As far as child support I will tell you the same thing as last month.



- They work very hard and just have an impossible task of meeting the goals the state sets for them.

Board Member Jones commented:

- I hate that Raleigh gives you such impossible numbers to meet.
- It seems that as long as they have been monitoring these numbers they could see that they are not working.
- I know you have done your due diligence.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- What is your assessment of Raleigh?
- Are they more of a help or a hindrance?
- Any word on the letter to Senator Berger about the Medicaid Reform?

DSS Director Stacey Elmes responded:

- We could not do what we do without them.
- I do think they could support counties more.
- Unfortunately it is just going to be the way it is.
- I do not see anything changing anytime soon.
- The other letter has been drafted for your review.

Board Member Lankford commented:

- Sometimes it just takes persistence when you are dealing with Raleigh.
- It takes door to door.

Board Member Booth commented:

- I remember when we went down to Raleigh to lobby to for the hold harmless money.
- It took us being persistent to accomplish this goal.
- We were eventually successful
- I wish the process were as easy as making a phone call.

### **Child Residential Services Pilot Proposal**

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following information to the Board:

- I have included this for your review.
- This proposal seeks to reduce use of Therapeutic Foster Care and other high-end residential treatments for children by providing training and crisis response to traditional foster care families' contracted with Department of Social Services.
- If successful, children would experience greater stability in their living arrangements and less additional trauma, likely at a lower cost to the service system.
- We have already started training with our foster parents and they are very receptive.

Chairman Mendenhall noted that the Board is in support of this pilot proposal.

### **Guardian Ad Litem**

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following information to the Board:

- I provided the newsletter for your review.
- They are still in need of volunteers.

### **Salvation Army Christmas Applications**

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following information to the Board:

- Applications are accepted from October 1, 2018- October 31, 2018 at Stokes County Department of Social Services.
- They will only take the application provided and no applications will be taken after October 31, 2018.

### **Lunch and Learn**

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following information to the Board:

- The lunch and learn will be at the Walnut Cove Library on November 14, 2018 at 12:00 pm
- It will be led by our Program Integrity Investigator concerning fraud and how we handle it.
- We will provide lunch.
- This event is free and open to the public.
- I would love for you all to come.
- This unit does a great job with what they have to work with.

### **Comments**

County Manager Oakley commented:

- Ronda Outlaw with Cardinal will be here at the next Commissioners Meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Stacey, myself, and Ronda will be meeting before that meeting.
- Could we cancel the next DSS Board meeting for November 19<sup>th</sup> and just handle any DSS business at that meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>?

Chairman Mendenhall, with full consensus of the Board, accepts the request of the County Manager to cancel the meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.



**Adjournment**

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

Board Member Booth moved to adjourn the meeting.

Board Member Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Shannon Shaver**  
**Clerk to the Board**

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**Ronnie Mendenhall**  
**Chairman**