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MINUTES FOR MEETING OF

THE HOKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

April 26, 2021

A meeting of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (the "**Board**") was held at 4:00 p.m. on April 26, 2021 in the Commissioners Room located in the County Administration Building (Pratt Building) at 227 N. Main St, Raeford NC, pursuant to notice duly given. The following Board Members ("**BM**"), constituting a quorum, were present:

Allen Thomas, Jr., Chair
Bill Evans, Vice- Chair
Brenda Branch
Linda Revels
Harry Southerland

Also present representing the Department were Terry Stanton, Director of DSS; Barbara Mena-Peña, Administrative Officer; Ellen Leichter, Administrative Assistant; Tammy Brewer, Family Support Services Supervisor; Angela Livingston, Child Protective Services Supervisor and Jonathan Charleston, Department of Social Services Attorney.

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed the Board to this month's meeting. Thereafter, Chair Thomas asked BM Southerland to give the invocation. Chair Thomas asked for public comments. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice-Chair Evans made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of (a) the March 29, 2021 minutes and (b) the next meeting date of May 24, 2021, which was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked for the Child Care update from Ms. Tammy Brewer. Ms. Brewer reported the total amount spent for March service month was \$158,660.00. The amount spent in Smart Start was \$632.00. The amount spent in Non-Smart Start was \$158,028.00 The spending Coefficient was 95% (ninety-five percent). The Unexpended Non-Smart Start balance was \$435,722.00 and Unexpended Smart Start balance was over spent by \$216.00. Ms. Brewer stated that State will balance it out by taking it out of Non-Smart Start funds. Ms. Brewer also

stated there was not anyone on the waiting list. Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any questions. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked the Board for discussion regarding DSS Mandatory COVID19 vaccination. It was discussed. Chair Thomas asked for a motion to approve DSS Mandatory COVID19 vaccination. There was no motion to approve DSS Mandatory COVID19 vaccination.

Chair Thomas asked for the Coronavirus (COVID19) Update. Director Stanton updated the Board of the process and preventive measures the agency is taking in regards to COVID19. Director Stanton informed the Board the agency has not had any positive cases in months. He stated the agency continues to limit staff interactions to include having virtual meetings. He stated the agency continues to wear face coverings and monitor employee's temperatures with thermo-scanners. Director Stanton asked if there were any questions. He informed the Board the agency continues to have tables with applications and information set up in the lobby for the public to utilize and the agency continue to see clients by appointments. Chair Thomas asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chair Thomas referenced from last month's meeting for the agency to allow an additional employee to attend the Board meeting on a rotational basis to speak about their specific department. Director Stanton introduced Ms. Angela Livingston, Child Protective Services Supervisor, to the Board. Ms. Livingston introduced herself and commended Director Stanton on a good job on preventive COVID19 measures that are put in place at the agency. She then spoke about COVID19 and the staff in her department. It was discussed. Chair Thomas asked about the clarification from the State in reference to virtual home visits with social workers and clients. Director Stanton responded and it was discussed. Chair Thomas asked about a day in the life of a social worker. Ms. Livingston responded and it was discussed. BM Southerland asked about the vacancy in the department. Ms. Livingston responded and it was discussed. Chair Thomas asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked for Director Presentation. Director Stanton directed everyone to the County – Mandated Performance Requirements Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in the handout. The Board reviewed and discussed the March 2021 data and measurements of the MOA report. Chair Thomas asked if there were any questions for the Director. There were none.

Chair Thomas referenced February 2021 Child Care update where it was stated that the State representative recommended the agency keep the Child Care waiting list and as clients are added to the waiting list, they will immediately send out notices to parents to complete the Child Care application. Chair Thomas also mentioned that a State representative had concerns about Social Workers performing virtual home visits instead of in person visits. Chair Thomas stated that he wants to make sure Director Stanton is empowered to make decisions he feels that are in the best interest of the agency staff. Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any questions or comments. It was discussed. Chair Thomas asked about the expiration of Vice-Chair Evans term. Director Stanton responded and it was discussed. Chair Thomas asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked if there were any comments from the Board. Vice-Chair Evans expressed his view and concern for the DSS Mandatory COVID19 vaccination. It was discussed. Chair Thomas asked for a motion to add DSS Mandatory COVID19 vaccination to next month's meeting agenda. BM Branch made the motion to include DSS Mandatory COVID19 vaccination to May 24, 2021 Board Meeting which was seconded by Vice-Chair Evans. The vote was three to two. Chair asked if there were any other comments. Director Stanton updated the Board of the outcome of the Medicaid Manage Care event that took place Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Wright Building. He also mentioned on May 12, 2021 a booth and a telephone will be set up at the agency for the community to come out to be informed and are able to talk to someone about the Medicaid Manage Care. Chair Thomas asked if there were any other comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Evans made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous.

Allen Thomas, Jr, Chair

Micka T. Stanton, Secretary

Date