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MINUTES FOR MEETING OF
THE HOKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

September 27, 2021

A meeting of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (the “**Board**”) was held at 4:00 p.m. on September 27, 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
Virginia Chason
Brenda Branch
Linda Revels
Harry Southerland

Also present representing the Department were Terry Stanton, Director of DSS; Barbara Mena-Peña, Administrative Officer; Tera Campbell, Personnel Tech; and Jose Coker, 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 Chason to give the invocation.

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to add the Foster Care Budget Amendment to Item 7 (a) under Director Presentation. BM Revels made the motion, which was seconded by Vice-Chair Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked for public comments. There were none. Chair Thomas asked about the relocation of next month’s (October) meeting. Director Stanton responded. Chair Thomas asked if anyone had any other questions regarding the Consent Agenda. There were none. Chair Thomas asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice-Chair Branch made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of (a) the August 30, 2021 minutes (b) the next meeting date of October 25, 2021 at Hoke DSS Conference Room, T.B. Lester, Jr. Building (c) Budget Amendment LIEAP and (d) Attorney Invoice, which was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked for the Child Care update. Director Stanton informed the Board that Ms. Brewer had a family emergency and was not able to attend the meeting. He also informed the Board that Ms. Brewer's Supervisor, Mrs. Diane Simmons was unable to attend the meeting due to conducting interviews. He stated that he will report on the Child Care update and try to answer any questions the Board may have. Director Stanton reported for August service month that the spending Coefficient has increased to 81% (eighty-one percent). He stated that Child Care still does not have a waiting list. Director Stanton stated that the agency is advertising and continue to take applications for Child Care. Director Stanton asked if the Board had any questions. He proceeded to direct the Board to the handout to reference the spending balance for Smart Start and Non Smart Start. Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any other questions regarding Child Care. There were none

Chair Thomas asked for the Coronavirus (COVID19) Update from Director Stanton. Director Stanton informed the Board that there has been some exposure and positive cases at the agency which has come from staff's children but the agency has been able to maintain. Director Stanton stated the agency is working with the Health Department for better ways of getting tested such as take home test. Director Stanton stated the agency continues to have the same COVID19 restrictions. He stated that everyone continues to wear face coverings, temperatures continue to be checked, the agency continues to limit clients into the facility and the building continues to be cleaned and sanitized regularly. BM Revels asked about a mobile vaccination unit at the agency. Director Stanton responded and it was discussed.

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 the August 2021 data and measurements of the MOA report. Director Stanton elaborated on the MOA. Director Stanton stated he spoke to the state representative and they had no concerns.

Chair Thomas asked Director Stanton to continue on to the Foster Care Budget Amendment. Director Stanton presented the Foster Care Budget Amendment. Chair Thomas asked Director Stanton to discuss the LINKS budget amendment that was brought to the Commissioners for approval. Mrs. Barbara Mena-Peña and Director Stanton discussed the LINKS Budget Amendment. Chair Thomas explained to the Board the reason the LINKS Budget Amendment was brought to the Commissioners first instead of the DSS Board. Chair Thomas asked for motion to approve the Foster Care Budget Amendment and move it forward to the Commissioners for approval. Vice-Chair Branch made the motion which was seconded by BM Southerland. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any comments. Chair Thomas stated he will like to have an in depth discussion about Child Care. He will like to have a chart to track clients who apply, how they were contacted and the results. Director Stanton responded. BM Revels asked about other supervisors attending the meeting to do a presentation about their department. Director Stanton responded. Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any other comments. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to go into closed session. BM Southerland made the motion to go into closed session to discuss Attorney/Client Privilege, which was seconded by Vice-Chair Branch. The vote was unanimous. Those in attendance during the closed session included Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Branch,

BM Revels, BM Chason, BM Southerland, Director Stanton, and Attorney Coker. BM Revels made the motion to end the closed session which was seconded by Vice-Chair Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any questions or comments. There were none. Chair Thomas asked for a motion to adjourn. BM Revels made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by BM Southerland. The vote was unanimous.

Allen Thomas, Jr, Chair

Micka T. Stanton, Secretary

Date