

**Lee County Department of Social Services**  
**Board Meeting**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The Board of Social Services for Lee County Department of Social Services convened at 12:00 P.M., in the Board of Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina. Board members present were Margaret Johnson, Paul Utley and Ophelia Livingston.

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order, at the time a quorum was not met. Ms. Johnson was aware that one member was running a few minutes late and would be attending which would give the meeting a quorum. Ms. Johnson proceeded with the reciting of the Serenity Prayer.

**Public Comment**-No one signed up to speak during the Public Comments section of the meeting.

**LIEAP KICKOFF**-Ms. Noel introduced Billy Henderson, Supervisor for the Energy Programs. Ms. Henderson gave a brief explanation of the Low Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). She told the board that the LIEAP program was a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their heating expense. The start of the program is December 1-December 31, 2018 for households that have a member age 60 and over or, a disabled person receiving a service through the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. All other households may be considered beginning January 1, 2019 if funds are available. To qualify for the program applicant's households must meet the following requirements; have at least one U.S. citizen or qualified alien, have income below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level, have reserves at or below \$2,250.00, be responsible for its heating bill and be located in the county where the application is made. She also reminded the board that the payments are made directly to the vendor and are in the amounts of \$200.00, \$300.00 or \$400.00 depending on the household size and income. Ms. Henderson also add that everyone who is eligible must apply, no one would automatically be approved.

The program runs from December 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. Ms. Noel reminded the board that part of the Energy Outreach Plan discusses what the requirements are for the LIEAP program. A part of the plan is to publicize the program, which was done by sending out information to local media outlets. This lets them know the application dates, December 1-December 31, 2018, for individuals by policy designated aged or disabled receiving disability services by the Division of Aging and Adult Services. This year the policy defines aged as a

household member 60 and over. Beginning January 1, 2019 it is then open to all potential eligible household members.

Chairperson Johnson acknowledge a quorum had been met when Dr. Livingston joined the meeting during the LIEAP KICKOFF. She then preceded to the November Agenda and asked if changes were needed, there being none at this time, she asked for a motion to approve. Dr. Livingston made the motion to approve, and Mr. Utley seconded.

Aye: Utley, Johnson and Livingston

Nay: None

The board then considered changes to the October minutes. No changes being made, Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to approve. Dr. Livingston made a motion to approve and Mr. Utley seconded.

Aye: Utley, Johnson and Livingston

Nay: None

**STATE OF LEE COUNTY FY 2017-2018** Ms. Noel told the board in their packets they would see two documents. She explained that each year data is collected for all the social services programs. This has been a county project the interns use to do by collecting information from all the departments and give a state of the county report. This year there is not an intern so Ms. Noel was unsure if as a whole the county data is available. Ms. Noel told the board that she collects information from the supervisors for the entire year. A written format has been completed in the past years, but she finds it much easier to read and interpret in chart format. The chart format gives additional information, versus the written version. Ms. Noel gave a brief summary from the chart document. She told the board she had divided the chart into Economic Services and Social Work Services. The chart shows a comparison of FY 2016-2017 to FY 2017-2018 trends based on information that was available. This year going forward she felt that it would be beneficial to bring this information to the board to show them patterns, trends, and where things have changed.

**MOU ADDENDUM FY 18-19** Ms. Noel directed the board to the next handout in their packets. The items were a modification agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding for FY 18-19 between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Lee County and a Dear County Director's Letter that summarized the modifications to the agreement. Ms. Noel discussed the letter which summarizes changes to the MOU which had been signed back in June

2018 to be effective July 1, 2018 between DHHS and Lee County. The MOU put in place all the performance measures outlined in the performance scorecard.

Ms. Noel told the board that according to DHHS staff they made a decision to be more flexible in the MOU's based off of county feedback and the continued need for data analysis. Due to Hurricane Florence, the data validation has been delayed. A lot of the MOU measures have been changed or altered from fixed to growth measures. She pointed out to the board that on the back of the letter they would see a summary of everything that changed. She told the board that if they would look at Section 2.1 that there would be no corrective actions this year. The original agreement required the state to impose corrective action for noncompliance beginning January 1, 2019. This was due to several reasons one being the state had not gotten data validated and this was due to Hurricane Florence coming in and delaying the work the state needed to do as well as the counties. She went on to explain that counties will each have a specific data coordinator, to work one on one to validate data and do the footwork with the county until they both are in agreement that the information is correct. She also explained that they are going to set a county specific measure and not go straight to what the federal or state measure would be for growth measures. They want to slowly get them where they need to be versus having the expectations of fixing it in one year. This would prevent the state from having to put the county under corrective action and the possibility of the state coming in to take control of the agency for counties that are truly making progress. The state wants to work with the counties on realistic growth measures that can get the counties where they need to be. Ms. Noel said this is great and the way it needed to transition. The modification will be presented by Ms. Noel to the Board of Commissioners on December 3, 2018. The commissioners will have to make a decision on how they want to proceed with who has authority to enter into this legally binding contract since this is a county contract versus a DSS contract.

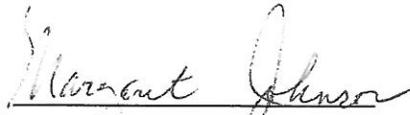
**PERFORMANCE SCORE CARD-** Ms. Noel told the board that the performance scorecards are set exactly on the MOU. The layout is an easy format. The data in the scorecards is through October 31, 2018 with the exceptions being the items marked with two asterisks. This is data from the CFSR which is from the UNC data site from last fiscal year. The measures marked with one asterisk is from the federal fiscal year. She also told the board that the hope is after the state has gotten all reports developed, there will be a report that can be pulled every month that contains data from the previous month for all performance measures. The exception would be Child Support as they have yearly performance measures. Ms. Noel told the board this data gives them an idea where progress is being made, where the county is excelling and where improvements are needed.

With no further business to come before the board, Chairperson Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Utley, Johnson, Livingston

Nay: None

Chairperson Johnson ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the meeting adjourned.



Margaret Johnson

Chairman



Melissa Lett

Secretary to the Board