

LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING

August 20, 2013

The Board of Social Services for the Lee County Department of Social Services convened at 12:00 noon in the Board of Commissioner's Room of the Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina. Board members present were, David Riddle, Gail Dickens and Paul Utley. Also present was Brenda Potts, Ex-Officio.

Vice Chairperson, Mr. Utley called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. Mr. Utley asked if there were any changes to the August agenda, and Mrs. Potts requested that Item VI. Non- Emergency Medicaid Transportation Contracts be tabled due to Mr. Parks not being present. Mr. Riddle made a motion to table and Mr. Utley asked all in favor.

Aye: Mr. Riddle, Gail Dickens and Mr. Utley

Nay: none, motion carries.

Mr. Utley asked if there were any adjustments or changes to the July Board minutes, Mr. Riddle noted an error for correction and made a motion the July Board minutes be corrected and a vote at the next board meeting held. Mr. Utley seconded the motion, motion carries. The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Potts.

PUBLIC COMMENT-No One for Public Comment

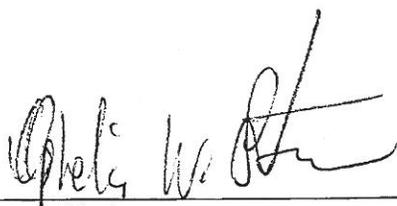
NEW BUSINESS-Affordable Health Care Act.

Mrs. Potts introduced Christy Terry, Medicaid Supervisor, Sabrina Coleman, Food and Nutrition Supervisor and Angelina Noel, WFFA, Daycare and Fraud Supervisor to the board and turned the meeting over to them to present information on The Affordable Health Care Act. Mrs. Terry began the presentation by giving an overview of the ACA. The ACA was enacted into law on March 23, 2010. A major provision of the law effects Medicaid and North Carolina Health Choice and dictates that health care exchanges be setup for individuals to purchase insurance by January 2014. The term exchanges have been changed to Health Benefit Marketplace. Also included in the law was a provision that states expand Medicaid to include all individuals who have income below 133% of the federal poverty level. With regards the actual income limit is 138% of the FPL. In June 2012 the Supreme Court struck down this provision of the laws, allowing the North Carolina legislature and governor to make the decision not to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. There are other provisions of the law that directly or indirectly affect the Departments of Social Services, including the Federal Health Benefit Marketplaces. North Carolina has chosen to use this method. Some of the key points to the ACA are it mandates that individuals may apply in person, by mail, electronically or by phone, there is no wrong door (which means applicants may apply at any agency or site), there must be one application for applying for Medicaid, NCHC and the ACA and it must be streamlined without assets. Mrs. Coleman explained the time frames and the process. Open enrollment begins October 1, 2013 for the Insurance Affordability Programs. A single streamlined application must be used the new eligibility rules applied to be effective January 1, 2014. If the applicant

qualifies for Medicaid under the new rules eligibility begins January 1, 2014 and if the applicant doesn't qualify for Medicaid then the application is electronically sent to the Health Benefit Marketplace. Medicaid eligibility for dates prior to January 2014 must be evaluated under current eligibility rules and if the applicant is eligible for Medicaid prior to January 2014 he/she will be enrolled in Medicaid and the MAGI (The ACA requires a new budgeting methodology, Modified Adjusted Gross Income rules will not run until the next recertification.) Mrs. Noel, explained the impact this would have on Social Services eligibility staff, (1) Potential for increase in applications with roll-out of the ACA, need to refer applicants to the FFM/Health Insurance Marketplace, the streamlined Medicaid applications for all programs, Family and Children's Medicaid programs and NCHC methodology is totally changing, children on NCHC, age 6-18 whose income is less than 133% fpl will move to Medicaid, former foster care children up to age 26 will have coverage without regard to income, potential of applicants from other counties applying in Lee County with the no wrong door policy and the increased phone calls coming through the switchboard.

NC FAST UPDATES- On July 15 the state added enhancements into the NC FAST system to prepare for Medicaid. Prior to that, the FNS program was working much better in NC Fast. When the enhancements occurred, the system did not issue FNS benefits. Things working prior to July 15 no longer worked. Help tickets have been submitted but some clients have not gotten benefits in a month due to these enhancement updates. NC Fast has ranked the counties in colors and Lee is in the green which is good. At this time clients have been somewhat understanding and realize it is a statewide issue. At this point, there is nothing that we can do on some of the cases, as it will require a fix or the state rolling out the case. Mrs. Coleman explained that they are following up on help desk tickets and referring clients to food banks. Mrs. Potts told the board about the press release from Mr. Diaz with DHHS explaining the issue as a county learning curve of the new system. She stated that the state had not taken any ownership of the system problems.

Mr. Utley asked if any further discussion. There being no further business brought before the Board, Mr. Utley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Dickens made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Riddle seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.



Chairman



Secretary