

# LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING

**August 19, 2014**

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 at the Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina. Board members present were Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Gail Dickens, Paul Utley and Commissioner Charles Parks was absent. Also present was Ex-Officio member Brenda Potts.

Chairperson Livingston called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the serenity prayer.

The Board considered changes to the August agenda. Mrs. Potts requested that the agenda Items V. A.B. and C. be moved on the agenda, to Item B. Food Stamp Energy Plan being heard 1<sup>st</sup>. Item C. Fire Arms in Government Center being heard 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Item A. Unaccompanied Minors being heard last. With the changes being made the board approved the agenda.

The Board considered changes to the July Minutes. With no changes made the Minutes were approved.

The meeting was turned over to DSS Director Brenda Potts.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**- Ms. Sabrina Coleman, Food and Nutrition Supervisor, brought before the board the Lee County Social Services Energy Program Outreach plan. She discussed the outreach plan and how Social Services contacts agencies or groups throughout the county for their participation in outreach activities for the Energy Program. Individuals on the board offered the names of individuals/groups to be included in the outreach efforts. Mrs. Potts then asked the board for a motion to accept the energy plan.

Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: All

Nay: None

Mrs. Potts introduced Lisa Shearer, CPS Supervisor, to discuss the Fire Arms in the Government Center, and why the Child Welfare Section feels it is not a good idea to repeal the Gun Ordinance in the Government Center. Due to the nature of the CPS unit, she wanted the board to be aware of the concerns of her staff if the Gun Ordinance were to be repealed. The board thanked her for comments and concerns. Mrs. Potts introduced Rocky Geist, DSS-IT, to discuss the Fire Arms in the Government Center and why he feels that it is a good idea, however several factors need to be addressed prior to making the changes to the Government Center. He spoke on the Non-Lethal Alternatives, qualifications to carry a concealed weapon on Lee County Government property, safety issues; he gave a brief background on himself and his familiarity with weapons being prior military. He spoke of the PROS to having fire arms in the government center and the CONS to having them in the government center. Mrs. Potts concluded that Social Services would have to make some changes in the way we do business if the Gun Ordinance is repealed.

The board requested for Mrs. Potts to have a voice at the next board of commissioner's meeting discussing the concerns of the repeal.

Mrs. Potts discussed with the board the Unaccompanied Minors that have been discussed in the news. She informed the board of that these unaccompanied minor Immigrant children would not be entitled to traditional social services like food stamps or foster care services offered by North Carolina, but they could be entitled to the public education, and some emergency medical services under Medicaid. These children are not classified as Refugees, so they do not qualify for refugee assistance. After further discussion, Mrs. Potts asked the board for a motion on the Lee County Social Service's position on whether or not Lee County Social Services would assume the role of guardianship or assume any financial obligation for these Unaccompanied Minors being brought into the US; Ms. Potts recommendation was not to assume these responsibilities. The motion was made and suggested by Ms. Livingston to be in the form of a resolution.

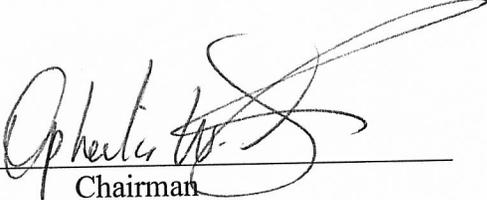
Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

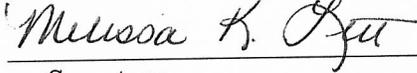
Aye: All  
Nay: None

With no further business to come before the Board, Member Riddle moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Utley. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: All  
Nay: None

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

  
Chairman

  
Secretary