

**LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING  
August 18th, 2015**

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, Paul Utley, and Gail Dickens, absent Commissioner Amy Dalrymple. Also present was Ex-Officio member Brenda Potts.

Ms. Potts handled the meeting until the office of Board Chair and Vice Chair were voted in. Nominations were opened for Chairperson and Mrs. Dickens nominated Mrs. Livingston, Mr. Utley seconded the nomination. Mr. Utley made a motion to close nominations. A vote was taken and Mrs. Livingston won 3-0. Nominations were opened for Vice Chair. Mr. Utley nominated Mrs. Dickens for Vice Chair, Mr. Riddle seconded the nomination. Mr. Riddle made a motion to close nominations. A vote was taken and Mrs. Dickens won 3-0. The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Livingston as Chairperson.

Chairperson Livingston called the meeting to order.

The Board considered changes to the August agenda. With no changes being made a motion was made by Member Dickens to approve the minutes.

Aye: Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Gail Dickens and Paul Utley (Ms. Dalrymple was absent from the meeting)

Nay: None

The Board considered changes to the July Minutes. With no changes being made a motion was made by Member Utley to approve the minutes.

Aye: Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Gail Dickens and Paul Utley (Ms. Dalrymple was absent from the meeting)

Nay: None

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

Mrs. Livingston asked the board to recite the Serenity Prayer.

The meeting was turned over to DSS Director Brenda Potts.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Ms. Potts- Advised the board that in the last month the state had contacted Ms. Lett concerning the expired board term of Mr. Riddle. Ms. Lett emailed explaining that she believed the board expired term was Ms. Dickens, she then forwarded documentation to Ms. Green with the state and she accepted that it probably was Ms. Dickens. Ms. Potts then asked the board for consideration for nomination of Ms. Dickens for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Term as a DSS Board Appointed member. Ms. Potts asked for a motion to re-appoint Ms. Dickens Mr. Utley made the motion to re-appoint Gail Dickens. Ms. Livingston asked all in favor.

Aye: Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, and Paul Utley (Ms. Dalrymple was absent from the meeting)

Nay: None

Ms. Potts advised the board on Senate Bill 424 which was adopted to extend the provision of Foster Care to the age of twenty-one years. Currently, the child must sign a Voluntary Placement Agreement to remain in Foster Care after age 18. This bill would authorize the Social Services Commission to adopt rules implementing the expansion of foster care coverage through age twenty-one. The corresponding House Bill is until age nineteen. Ms. Potts shared with the board a current Foster Care child that had applied and was accepted into the School of Math and Science. Ms. Potts also shared that historically a lot of times when children age out of foster care, at the age of 18, they go back to the families that they were taken from because they are not willing to adhere to the Voluntary Placement Agreement contract. If they remain in DSS's care, under the VPA, they are held to certain rules which requires them to complete activities that will help them become self - sufficient.

Ms. Potts asked Angelina Noel, Daycare Supervisor and County Champion for NC FAST to update the board on Child Care Project 3 Pilot. Ms. Noel advised the board about the recent visit of a team from NCFast to Lee County DSS. They came with a request to observe the staff from start to finish in the day care process. The state used this opportunity to learn how things are done as this group will be working on the next phase of NCFast (Project 3). Prior to them leaving they asked if Lee County would be willing to be a pilot for the next phase. Ms. Noel said that Lee County would pilot the project and believed it was better to "just rip off the band aid and start." Ms. Noel advised that the official letter had been received for the pilot county. The board had some discussion as how the providers are notified. Ms. Livingston suggested a notification to the local paper.

**OLD BUSINESS**-Ms. Potts updated the board on the status of the positions in the budget and that the SW II would be starting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She also advised that the Attorney position had been interviewed.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**-Ms. Potts gave the board a report on the recent single audit which the state requires. Social Services had no findings in this portion of the audit. She also gave a report on the Board of Commissioner's recent meeting in which the Human Resource Director, Joyce McGehee presented an updated classification and pay plan recommended by the Evergreen Study. In the plan the DSS Grade 57's would go to 58's and the 59's would go to 60's. These are some of the lower grades that DSS has. Ms. McGehee also presented a merit system; this would separate the long term employees from the newly hired staff in pay range. Also in that meeting the commissioner's approved the purchase of the two Ford Fusions that were in the budget.

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: Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Paul Utley, and Gail Dickens. (Ms. Dalrymple was absent from the meeting)

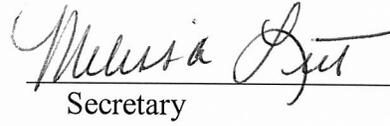
Nay: None

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



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Chairman



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Secretary