

**LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD MEETING**

February 19th, 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, Charles Parks, Ophelia Livingston, Paul Utley and Gail Dickens. Also present was Brenda Potts, Ex-Officio.

Chairperson, Mr. Riddle called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. Mr. Riddle asked if there were any changes to the February agenda, Mr. Riddle asked all in favor.

Aye: David Riddle, Gail Dickens, Charlie Parks, Paul Utley, Ophelia Livingston

Nay: none, motion carries.

Mr. Riddle asked if there were any adjustments or changes to the January Board minutes, there being none, Mr. Riddle asked all in favor.

Aye: David Riddle, Gail Dickens, Charlie Parks, Paul Utley, Ophelia Livingston

Nay: none, motion carrier.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Potts introduced Angelina Noel, WFFA, Fraud and Program Integrity Supervisor and Vicki Franklin, WFFA Lead Worker and explained that they would be giving a presentation on the Work First Program. Brenda turned the meeting over to Angelina to give her presentation. Angelina began with what WFFA is, and explained that it is all about the children. The Work First program encourages personal responsibility, independence, increases self-esteem, and promotes long term family well-being. Angelina explained the Three Basic Requirements for Work First:

- You must be at least 18 years old to apply,
- You must have a related child in your home under the age of 18, or if 18 will graduate high school by the 19th birthday.
- You must live in Lee County

She also, explained the services provided by Work First

- Work First Benefits (mandatory for employment services)
- Child Only Cases (SSI, legal custody, kinship)
- Benefit Diversion
- 200% Transitional Services
- Emergency Assistance

Mr. Riddle asked if Work First had time constraints, which she explained that the state of North Carolina has a 2 year time clock limit on Work First Benefits. Once you receive your 24th check, you will be unable to receive Work First for 3 years, and ultimately a 5 year lifetime cap. She went onto explain that

they work closely with the Child Support Unit due to the fact that Work First applicants must cooperate with Child Support concerning the absent parent; failure to cooperate results in termination of Work First Benefits.

She also explained the requirements for Family Cap, Child Support Enforcement, Employment Security and the Work Requirements which are mandatory for employment services. Angelina acknowledges that the program is a lot of work for the recipient and that a lot is required for them to stay on the program. At this time there are 106 cases in all and 20 employment service cases. Clients in the WF employment program are seen once a week. Mrs. Livingston inquired if there was any type of monitoring or follow up to see if we are doing the right things and how the ones in the program are doing once they leave. Vicki said at this time no documentation available to know the outcomes. Mrs. Potts explained that at this time there were DHHS reports to track these clients. It was mentioned that a grant for a local nonprofit might be an option for a group interested. Mrs. Livingston suggested a possible spreadsheet done in house. The board thanked Angelina and Vicki for the presentation and the hard work the unit does.

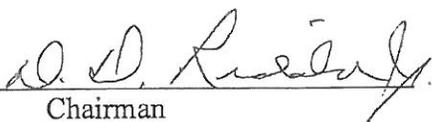
OLD BUSINESS-

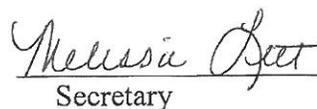
NC FAST UPDATE- Mrs. Potts gave a handout to the board concerning the issues at this time with NC FAST and discussed speed of the system, Job Aids/Work Around, Reports, Help Desk, Media and Child Welfare. She explained that many counties are struggling with the system, and the process. The system appears to be slower in the afternoons. The state allows a benchmark of 8 seconds per screen, which is excessively slow. Mrs. Potts explained that she had spoken with Kyle concerning the county's bandwidth and how where the county is with what they need. Ms. Potts indicated that the IT Director is watching the issue closely and if we need to up the bandwidth, it should not be a problem as the contract is with Windstream.

Director's Report-Mrs. Potts reported that the new IMC II FNS position that the Board of Commissioner's approved has been filled by a current IMC I FNS worker and that we are in the process of filing that position. We also have filled the WFFA IMC II position vacant by the individual retiring effective February 28; we have a Child Support Agent II position posted inside due to a resignation, and are in the process of scheduling interviews to fill this position.

We are currently working on the budget for this year, the State estimates just came in and the budget is due March 4, normally during this meeting we would go over the budget however due to the State estimates being delayed we will have for our next meeting. One item on the budget estimates cut was The Child Support Incentives by half.

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


Chairman


Secretary