

LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD MEETING
November 15th, 2016

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

Chair Riddle called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the serenity prayer.

The Board considered changes to the November agenda. No changes being made a motion was made by Member Livingston to accept.

Aye: David Riddle, Amy Dalrymple, Ophelia Livingston, absent from the vote/meeting Gail Dickens, Paul Utley.

Nay: None

The Board considered changes to the October minutes. No changes being made a motion was made by Member Amy Dalrymple to accept.

Aye: David Riddle, Amy Dalrymple, Ophelia Livingston, absent from the vote/meeting Gail Dickens, Paul Utley.

Nay: None

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

The meeting was turned over to DSS Director Brenda Potts.

HURRICANE MATTHEW UPDATE

A chain of events began with a call from Shane Seagroves that we were opening up a Shelter at San Lee Middle School because of Hurricane Matthew on Oct. 8th. The phone chain made its way through those unlucky enough to be on DSS Shelter Team 6 and Team 7. Team 6 spent the night in the shelter with about 50 people and were relieved the next morning by Team 7, who handled closing down and cleaning up the shelter. While Emergency Management was surveying the damage and re-reporting to the State, the Income Maintenance Supervisors & the Budget Officer spent many hours on conference calls getting ready for the likelihood of running a DSNAP (Disaster Food Stamp Program) while the FNS staff handled the high volume of replacement requests for active FNS recipients and working ahead on regular cases. After a solid week of the FNS staff being swamped with replacement requests, both in person and by phone, and being unable to complete their normal work assignments, the Family and Children's and Adult Medicaid staff stepped in to assist the clients coming in. Cumberland County was one of the first 18 counties to run a DSNAP program. Members of our FNS and Medicaid units keyed over 600 DSNAP cases for Cumberland County. This was excellent practice for us as Lee County received the Individual Assistance declaration shortly thereafter and

had to run a DSNAP program. With a 2-day notice, Lee County's DSNAP program began on Thurs-day, Oct. 27 through Monday, Oct. 31. Staff took 2,126 applications. Everyone pitched in taking applications and staff from FNS, Medicaid and WFFA/Daycare concentrated on keying and processing the applications. Staff from the other units helped out the FNS unit. This was not an FNS effort, this was a DSS Team effort! The staff gave up their lunch hours and their weekend to get the job done. Applications were keyed daily so benefits were on the client's card the next day. An extension was approved allowing clients to report food loss missed during the initial reporting period. There were over 1000 replacement affidavits processed and keyed. Staff from Program Integrity, Medicaid, WFFA/Daycare and Child Support assisted by seeing clients to complete the replacement requests. In addition, the Child Care Coordinator took all of the phone calls from those clients that were unable to come in to request a replacement and mailed the documents to them for completion as needed. The Budget Officer, Family and Children's Medicaid Supervisor, Adult Medicaid Supervisor and FNS Supervisor spent many hours keying and approving all of the replacement requests as quickly as possible. The front desk/reception and Processing Assistant staff from other units signed all of the applicants in and the fiscal staff kept us out of trouble protecting the EBT cards and distributing them. Our primary greeters were stationed outside of the DSS entrance all day and directed the incoming traffic so that clients were going to the appropriate place based on their need. The combined efforts of the eligibility staff assigned to key and process the DSNAP applications, made it possible for Lee County to close their DSNAP program out in a short period of time, even before some of the other counties that declared the disaster before Lee County. DSS did a fantastic job! They were required by the USDA to operate all of our normal programs while running the DSNAP program on regular business days.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Mrs. Potts informed the board that at this time the NC FAST State Team is here this week observing our staff working to get the Daycare pilot setup. They are pleased we are ready, Angelina Noel, Budget Officer is setup to take the lead as she was in the supervisory position when the pilot was initiated. .

Sandhills Mental Health presented their new program at the Commissioner meeting. It is a web based access to their programs and immediate assistance in an emergency situation. They will have the capability of putting a Kiosk in different locations in out county. Space does not allow for having one in the DSS waiting room but the Health Dept. might be able to house one. The HD Director is exploring that. Ms. Potts explained the benefits of such a capability would be very beneficial to our clients.

Ms. Potts also reported that DSS received the Department of the Month Award for their efforts in the shelter and DSNAP program resulted by Hurricane Matthew.

CLOSED SESSION - Member Livingston moved for the Board to go into closed session to consider a personnel matter per N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6); Member Dalrymple seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: David Riddle, Amy Dalrymple, Ophelia Livingston, absent from the vote/meeting Gail Dickens, Paul Utley.

Nay: None

Chairperson Riddle ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the Board was in closed session.

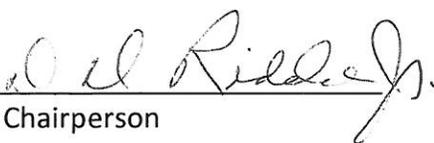
Upon returning from closed session, the regular meeting resumed with members Livingston, Dalrymple and Riddle present.

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

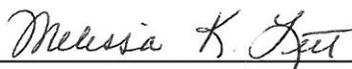
Aye: David Riddle, Amy Dalrymple, Ophelia Livingston, absent from the vote/meeting Gail Dickens, Paul Utley.

Nay: None

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



Chairperson



Secretary