

**Minutes**  
**Forsyth County Department of Social Services**  
**September 24, 2008**

8:32am Call to Order

In Attendance:

Florence Corpening, Dave Plyler, R. Michael Wells, Sr., Gloria Woods, Brenda Evans, Joe Raymond, Ava Smith-Pegues, Tryphena Ellis, MSW, VP/Clinical Director Top Priority Care Services located 7990 North Point Boulevard, Suite 204, Winston-Salem

Absent: Walter Marshall, Claudette Weston

**Introductions** of new staff

- Employee of the Quarter (Oct. thru Dec) – Kara Staley, Adult Medicaid
- Rhonda Grady, Family Assessor, Family and Children's Unit
- Kenneth Brown, Senior HR Consultant, Administration

**Public Comments**

Tryphena Ellis of Top Priority Care Services attended the meeting as an observer.

**Miscellaneous Director's Report**

The Director focused the Board's attention to Attachment B of the agenda materials. This document is a draft "annual report" and the "Did You Know" format provides information on each of DSS's three divisions about accomplishments over the past fiscal year.

**Consent**

The July and August minutes were approved on a motion by Dave Plyler, second by Mike Wells.

September Board Policy Compliance Reports

- There were no material findings in this year's audit report

The board discussed the seemingly large number (20 – 30) of program and fiscal audits done by the state and federal governments. Most of these audits are focused on process and not on outcomes. The director will find a way to compile agency costs of these audits and the board will consider submitting a letter to the NCADSS regarding excessive staff time and resources required.

**Action:** There were no action items.

### **Strategic**

Potential focus areas for FY 08-09 are the areas of

- older adults
- more guardianships which is a growing area

Joe Bartel, County Budget and Management Director, will speak at the October 22 Board meeting about budget.

Liz White, Day Care Program supervisor, spoke briefly on child care funding and highlighted:

- less funding coupled with the cost increases results in long waiting lists
- there are currently 2,500 children on the DSS wait list which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest in N.C.
- Forsyth County DSS has approximately half of the resources to meet the local child care subsidy need
- Recommendations to the General Assembly could potentially help

The Board made following comments following Ms. White's presentation:

- determine the Board's priority
- determine the pathway to what Board's influence may be
- determine who are the decision makers
- determine best approach
- determine how to increase community involvement

Overall, the Director suggested four areas for the board to consider has priority impact areas. These were:

1. Day Care funding
2. the rate of permanence for children adjudicated as abused or neglected
3. DSS salaries
4. DSS workload relief

The director agreed to bring these potential impact areas as recommendations to the October 22 meeting for board review.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Dave Plyler, second by Mike Wells.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 22 and will begin at 8:000 a.m.