

Forsyth County Department of Social Services Board Meeting

April 25, 2016

Board Members present: Nancy Young (Vice Chair), Com. Walter Marshal, Claudette Weston,  
Absent Rep. Evelyn Terry (Chair), Com. David Plyler

Staff present: Debra Donahue (Director), Victor Isler, Diane Wimmer, Pat Read, Kim Collie,  
Tiffany LaMarque, Tanya McDougal and Gail Anderson .

Absent: Daphne Taylor

Guest present: , Meghan Evans (W-S Journal)

Just prior to the meeting a reception was held to recognize employee years of service.

The following employees were recognized:

*Vancie Hancock and Artetta McKinney for 40 years of service*

*Deborah Pegram and Ann Roberts for 30 years of service*

*Sylvia Gaddy for 20 years of service*

*Latisha Anthony, Dayenin Arellano, Teresa Bryant, Tasheka Crawford, Zena Ervin, Rickita Foster,  
Lori Fulp, Tanya Hailey, Carla Jenkins, Regina Jordan, Timothy Kincaid, Kenya Leach, Jonica  
Martin, Glenda Martin, Shaunalee Maxfield, Rebecca Phelps, Mahulda Pope, Sharon Porter,  
Patricia Simcox and Michelle Ward for 10 years of service*

**New Employees** introduced: *Diana Hedrick, Shantee Johnson, Elizabeth Williams, Stacy  
Wagner, Montangeous Lilly, Melissa Pearson, Khyanna Hatchett, Kofi McNeil, Shrita Miller,  
Shatisse Fletcher, Jermaine Mitchell, Angela White, Elizabeth Proctor, Latoya Smith, Monique  
Barber, Alisa Poe, Linda McKenzie Kondra Wilkes and Jackie Gilmore-Davis.*

Director's Report:

Project Team

- Tiffany Lamarque has been promoted to Assistant Division Director of Income Support she will still be over the Special Project Team, Training , Quality Assurance and Program Integrity.
- Number of current cases pending:
  - Family and Children's Medicaid 1031
  - Traditional Medicaid 988
  - Food and Nutrition 364
  - Income support is at 98% timeliness for Food/Nutrition Services in applications
- Human Resources Updates
  - April eight new hires two rehires
  - One dismissal, two lateral transfers, five promotions, one retirement, and four voluntary resignations
  - April 2016 vacancy rate is 10%

- Comment by Commissioner Marshal would be good to have numbers of how many people have retired, resigned, been terminated or promoted to show proof and causes of vacancy rates when justifying the budget for next year.
- Budget
  - Has been sent for Budget Analysis and should see copy of final budget today.
  - Comment by Commissioner Marshal who expressed concern over vacancy rates when asking for 13 new positions and would be important to make sure all commissioners are aware of HR process and time it takes to get new hires when presenting budget to ask for more positions.
- According to recent data
  - In terms of work load, number of calls, customers, Medicaid Transport and child care DSS is serving about 20% of the population of Forsyth County.
  - Still Poverty issues in Forsyth County
  - Will be attending conference in Raleigh May 3-4 with County Commissioners.

Consent:

- Minutes from March meeting read and moved to approve by Walter Marshall, seconded by Claudette Weston , voted on and accepted.

Division Updates

- Child Support
  - No significant changes in Child Support Program this month.
  - Child Support continues to make progress toward meeting goals and objectives for all CS activities
  - Fatherhood Initiative training is complete, staff are developing a plan to engage non custodial parents
- Family and Children's
  - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
    - Balloon release at the start of the month at Government Center had Jim O'Neal as the speaker. Ms Weston was thanked for attending this event.
    - Pinwheel garden is present on campus in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month
    - Blue ribbons were given out to all employees
    - There were three children kill in Forsyth County last year (had been no prior CPS involvement)
  - Love and Logic Parenting Education: Two supervisors are scheduled to attend training in Colorado, those staff will be training other staff and parents on the model

- Working with the Northwest Community Care Network of North Carolina to assist with getting medical assistance for foster children
  - Ensure get screened within 72 hours of entering the system
  - Comprehensive follow ups
  - Trying to have physicians within their community so will be able to continue care when reunited with family
  - Will be a kick off dinner at the Hawthorne Inn May 26.
- F & C is meeting most of the permanency standards set by the state except one area and this is the percentage of youth who achieve permanency through reunification within 12 months of being placed in foster care. Importance of this but also importance of ensuring the safety of the children who would be returned when the situation has not improved.
- Youth in Transition
  - Credit bureau approved to train in financial literacy
  - Includes nine modules to educate parents and aging out youth
  - Grant for forums to host groups/open discussions on domestic violence, community response, values and financial impact.
- Adult Division
  - As of April 13 the In Home Aide program is fully staffed.
  - Returned \$10,896 in funding to HCCBG, for current year due to under spending as a result of vacancies etc.
  - Working on getting people off the waitlist, but there has been a problem when people contacted by social worker they do not want services because it is not what they are wanting.
  - Employment center numbers have been up for person's seeking services there
  - If Only Program gaining momentum, between March and April have been able to honor 4 requests.
  - All other programs still moving along
- Income Support
  - Food and Nutrition numbers trending in the right direction and as of last report at 98.9%
  - USDA Visit in June
  - DHHS rep will meet with staff in May to help prepare for USDA visit in June
  - No more temp staff: all work has been shifted back to Income Support staff
  - Will see an increase in refugee numbers for cash assistance and Medicaid. W
  - Adult Medicaid will transition back to Adult Division next week. Will be working with World Relief out of their new office in Winston-Salem

- Strategic Initiatives
  - Community Engagement
  - Adult services 7-8 types of services in March.
  - Training with law enforcement and crisis intervention/find out resources available.
  - Monthly meetings with DA and APS: education and collaboration with Police/Sheriff.
  - Stress Survey
    - Completed Friday with 71% of DSS participating
    - This is being conducted externally and will be calculated and results tabulated
    - When receive results to committee will be meeting to address needs to alleviate stress.
  - DSS/Smart Start collaboration moving forwards
    - Speaking with Attorney to complete contract
    - Staff will begin transition when contract is completed
    - Currently testing to make sure all systems will work
    - This is to make Day Care services more accessible
    - Some discussion of Universal Pre-K: Community forum in May
    - Lot of emphasis on collaboration with community groups
- Business Office
  - Will be voting on budget sometime in May
  - Commissioner Marshal asked that Commissioners on the DSS have a copy of the budget prior to make sure have all supporting documents included.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

**Next meeting will be May 25, 2016 at 11:30 AM**