

Forsyth County Department of Social Services
Board Meeting
November 7, 2017

Board Members present: Fleming El-Amin (Chair), Vice Chair Claudette Weston, Com David Plyler and Karen Durell

Others present: Debra Donahue (Director), Michael LaDisa (Deputy Director), Diane Wimmer (Adult Division) Director, Kim Collie (Asst. Director Income Support), Tiffany Lamarque (Asst. Division Director Income Support), Linda Daum (Business Officer), Tanya McDougal (Director of Strategic Initiatives), Linda Gaskin (Staff Development Supervisor), Shirelle Stewart-Riddick (Staff Developer), Gloria Woods (County Attorney), Phyllis Russell and Adam Pendlebury (Budget Office), Gail Anderson (Admin. Asst.), David Kwiatkowski and Patrick Phaup (MIS)and Jeanette Hartley.

Meeting called to order:

New board member training at Social Services Institute

Karen Durell and Fleming El-Amin shared what they learned and what they enjoyed about training

New Legislation affecting DSS

Board Expectations

Pressures being put on and urgency of acting on legislative changes

Enjoyed getting the state perspective

I. Consent

- A. Minutes from September 25, 2017 meeting - Minutes were presented motion made to approve by David Plyler seconded by Karen Durrell, passed by voice vote.

II. Updates

A. Salvation Army Contract

- i. Still in conversation for funding amounts, Deputy Director LaDisa informed Social Services Board that Salvation Army didn't want the contract returned. Salvation Army was interested only in finding out why it wasn't awarded to them.
- ii. Board request to see tentative contract and financials for the remainder of year along with amounts requested by Salvation Army by Thursday, November 9

- B. Foster Care Budget Request
- C. Need for additional funding for Foster Care due to:
 - i. Increase in number of children in foster care
 - ii. Service need for families/children impacted by the opiate abuse/addition
 - iii. Previous year budget estimates were based on last year's number of children in care (140). Currently FCDSS has 201 Children in custody in foster care.
 - iv. Continued need for therapeutic foster care homes.
 - v. Delays in authorizations for placement via Cardinal
 - vi. Increase in number of young people with mental health issues entering foster care

Response from Board regarding budget request to Director:

- 1. To determine if increased foster care funds will be a reoccurring expense
- 2. Coordinate with County Finance and County Manager to determine what other financial resources will be needed.
- 3. Develop a contingency plan and plan B for worst case scenario
- 4. To exhaust all existing allocated funds for foster care before going to County Commissioners

- III. Family Justice Center- would like permission to explore "Safe on 7" options. Board authorized Director to pursue study.
- IV. Reorganization/Classification Review- permission to pursue study to reorganize business office and classification of positions in IT. Recommendation submitted by January 2018 Social Services Board meeting.
- V. **Director's Report- Debra Donahue**
 - A. Loomis Contract
 - i. Sheriff's department not able to continue daily assistance at this time.
 - B. Other topics covered in handouts in packet
- VI. **Division updates- are found in Board packet**
- VII. Other Discussion-
 - A. Confirmed December 18th availability but would like to change meeting time to 10 am
 - B. Tabled approval of schedule for next year until December meeting.

Motion to adjourn seconded by Claudette, seconded by Karen Durell vote to adjourn, meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be **December 18, 2017 at 10 am**