

Forsyth County Department of Social Services Minutes
July 26, 2011

Present: Walter Marshall, Mike Wells, Dave Plyler, Evelyn Terry, Nancy Young, Daphne Taylor, Melinda Hartley, Elizabeth White, Tanya McDougal, Joe Raymond, Pat Read, Gloria Woods, Ava Smith-Pegues

Call to Order was given at 11:30am.

Information

Staff Introductions included members of the Executive Management Team to new board members, Mrs. Terry and Ms. Young.

There were no public comments.

The Director's Report included:

- Food and Nutrition has increased by 500 cases since last month and is now serving approximately 25,000 households
- Adult Discharge House Bill #677 goes into effect

Consent

The Minutes from the May meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Plyler.

Strategic

Child Care Subsidy

Janice Fain and John Winstead of the NC Division of Child Development attended the meeting at the Board's request to discuss Forsyth County's Child Care Subsidy funding which included. A detailed conversation took place. Ms. Fain provided an overview of the program and the board asked numerous questions about the Forsyth County allocation. The conversation centered around three main areas:

- the ending of the state level contract in 2007 (to NW Child Development Center) which removed approximately \$850,000 in funding from Forsyth County of Forsyth
- data that shows that the allocation of other urban counties are increasing while Forsyth's is decreasing
- the pattern of the state re-allocating monies to counties that overspend their allocation, while counties like Forsyth follow policy, maintain waiting lists do not get rewarded for good administration of their allocation.

The board asked that the Division of Child Development address these issues and communicate again with our board. Mr. Raymond was tasked with writing a letter summarizing the board's concerns.

Program Updates

- The LEAP program consisting of a one-time energy assistance check, once automatic for Food and Nutrition recipients, may now require them to apply through DSS
- DSS will now have to process and issue the checks directly to the vendor, instead of the check being cut by the state and going to the LEAP recipients. The cost of these changes to the county are unknown at this point.
- Forsyth County DSS has received \$264 thousand in funding to provide subsidized employment (Job Boost Program). The program anticipates having 10 to 15 employer participants including Goodwill Industries and the Employment Security Commission.
- The new Childcare Payment Program (SEEK) implements October 1 with a swipe card system.

Automation

- The Beacon Automation Project continues to bring modernization and efficiency to the F&N process
- Training dates for supervisors are being planned
- The speed problem has been solved
- 2 million images have been scanned

Action

The Board authorized a letter to the State asking for clarity regarding loss of the \$850,000 in child care subsidy funding. Motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Ms. Young,

New officers were elected. Evelyn Terry was elected Chairman and Nancy Young was elected Vice Chair on a motion by Mike Wells, second by Walter Marshall.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 on a motion by Mr. Marshall second by Mr. Wells.