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MINUTES FOR MEETING OF

THE HOKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

March 28, 2022

A meeting of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (the “**Board**”) was held at 4:00 p.m. on March 28, 2022 in the Commissioners Room located in the County Administration Building (Pratt Building) at 227 N. Main St, Raeford, NC, pursuant to notice duly given. The following Board Members (“**BM**”), constituting a quorum, were present:

Allen Thomas, Jr., Chair
Brenda Branch
Virginia Chason
Linda Revels
Harry Southerland

Also present representing the Department were Terry Stanton, Director of DSS; Barbara Mena, Administrative Officer; Tera Campbell, Personnel Tech; Tammy Brewer, Family Support Services; and Jonathan Charleston (via teleconference), Department of Social Services Attorney.

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed the Board to this month’s meeting. Thereafter, Chair Thomas asked BM Revels to give the invocation.

Chair Thomas asked for public comments. Ms. Annie M. Brown, a new citizen to the area, came forth to ask for assistance with finding housing. It was discussed. Chair Thomas asked for any other public comments. Adam Hall, Social Worker in Child Welfare, came forth to voice concerns on behalf of the agency Social Workers. Chair Thomas asked for any other public comments. There were none.

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. BM Revel made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of (a) the February 28, 2022 minutes (b) the next meeting date of Monday, April 25, 2022 and (c) the Attorney Invoice, which was seconded by Vice-Chair Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked for the Child Care update from Ms. Tammy Brewer. Ms. Brewer reported the total amount spent for February service month was \$140,555.00. The amount spent in Smart Start was \$21,348.00. The amount spent in Non-Smart Start was \$119,207.00. The current spending Coefficient is 94% (ninety-four

percent). The Unexpended balance in Non-Smart Start is \$532,045.00 and the Unexpended balance in Smart Start is \$4,432.00. Ms. Brewer also reported that Child Care still does not have a waiting list. Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any questions. There were none. Chair Thomas thanked Ms. Brewer for the information.

Chair Thomas asked the Boards approval to take a brief recess in order to eat and have a restroom break before starting the next item on the agenda which is Discussion and Approval of Recommended FY 2023 Budget. The Board agreed.

Chair Thomas called the meeting back to order. Chair Thomas asked for Discussion and Approval of Recommended FY 2023 Budget. Director Stanton guided the Board through the budget highlights. The Board discussed the budget presentation. Chair Thomas asked for a motion to make the Time Limited Income Maintenance Caseworker III – QA position permanent in the FY 2023 Budget. BM Southerland made the motion which was seconded by BM Revels. The vote was unanimous. Chair Thomas suggested that if any Board Member feels strongly about an amendment to the Budget to please stop the meeting so the change can be made. Chair Thomas asked Director Stanton to continue with the Budget presentation. The Board discussed the budget presentation. BM Southerland asked if the Attorney was included in the budget and if the Social Worker's stipend been revisited since it was approved. Director Stanton responded and it was discussed. BM Southerland asked for a plan to be put in place for the Foster child in the agency's care. It was discussed. Chair Thomas asked if there were any other questions or comments about the budget. There were none. Chair Thomas asked for motion to approve the Recommended FY 2023 Budget with the recommended change and move it forward to the County Manager. BM Revels made the motion which was seconded by Vice-Chair Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Thomas asked for the Board Member Replacement from Director Stanton. Director Stanton informed the Board of the expiration of BM Revels term and Vice-Chair Branch's moving situation. It was discussed.

Chair Thomas asked for the Coronavirus (COVID19) Update from Director Stanton. Director Stanton informed the Board that the agency continues to see some cases here and there. Director Stanton stated his thoughts to ease the agency back in to normal. He stated that the agency has opened the lobby up more and put more chairs out to allow for more clients to enter the facility. He also stated that the face covering mandate has been lifted at the agency. Director Stanton asked for the Boards thoughts on ending teleworking for employees effective Monday, April 11, 2022. The Board agreed.

Chair Thomas asked for Directors Presentation. Director Stanton re-discussed the upcoming Board Members Training. Director Stanton informed the Board if they are interested in attending to let him know so they can get registered. Director Stanton directed everyone to the County – Mandated Performance Requirements Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in the handout. The Board reviewed the February 2022 data and measurements of the MOA report. Director Stanton elaborated on the MOA. Chair Thomas asked if the Board had any questions or comments. There were none.

Chair Thomas mentioned that the Board of Commissioners will be taking a strong look at building a new DSS building real soon. He stated that someone needs to be able to speak specifically to reimbursements when it comes to construction at the Budget workshop. It was discussed. Chair Thomas asked if there were any other comments. Director Stanton presented Vice-Chair Branch with a plaque for her years of service even though she will still be part of the Board for a few more months. Chair Thomas asked if there were any other comments from the Board. Chair Thomas asked Vice-Chair Branch if she had in comments. Vice-Chair commented on her experience on the Board and enjoyed her time being on the Board.

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to adjourn. BM Southerland made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Vice-Chair Branch. The vote was unanimous.

Allen Thomas, Jr, Chair

Micka T. Stanton, Secretary

Date