

November 19, 2008
Franklin, NC 28734

Social Services Board met this date in Regular Session. Members in attendance were Dom D'Ascoli, Wendy Dalton, Mark West and Secretary. Chair D'Ascoli called meeting to order.

Minutes of the October 15, 2008 Board meeting were approved on motion of Mark West and second by Wendy Dalton.

Financials were reviewed. State Division of Social Services is developing proposed 5% cuts as are other State Divisions due to the budget crisis. Local potential funding cuts are predicted to be in the Senior Services Home Care Community Block Grant (HCCBG) allocation and in the DSS State Aide to Counties. Additional funds for Crisis Intervention Program have been received, and more funding is anticipated as part of a federal bailout. This program began the last week of October and only \$7,000 remains of the total \$112,000 allocation.

Under Old Business, the new foster care board rates are effective December 1, 2008, with reimbursement beginning January 2009. Information on the new rates has been submitted to all foster home providers. A DSS licensed Family Foster Home will receive \$634 a month for a foster child age 13 and above; a Private Placement Provider licensed Family Foster Home will receive \$1,638 a month for a foster child age 13 and above; and, a Group/Residential Home will receive \$4,516 a month for a foster child age 13 and above. Board was apprised of continued growth in the Income Maintenance programs, most particularly in the Food and Nutrition Program.

Under New Business, Board was informed of the Division on Aging and Adult Services security breach due to a state employee's laptop computer being stolen at the Atlanta airport. This computer contained several years of personal data on thousands of senior adults across the state and appears the computer was not encrypted to protect the data. Senior Services received 13 pages of names that have received services through their agency in the past 5 years that may have had their personal data comprised through this computer theft. Letters have been sent to these individuals advising them of the security breach and possible actions to be taken to protect them from possible identity theft. As of this date, no known identity theft has occurred within the state due to this incident.

Also under New Business, Secretary informed Board that Division of Medical Assistance has indicated they will be increasing the monitoring of Medicaid eligibility determinations as enhanced state supervision of local DSS. The NC Association of County Directors of Social Services is actively advocating that DMA has the responsibility as a state supervisor to also adequately and timely train all county DSS staff as a means of enhancing program performance, not just increase monitoring functions.

Board was briefly updated on discussions regarding the potential redesign of mental health services delivery for the 7 western most counties of NC. More details will be forthcoming on a proposed mental health model for the Southern Region of the Smoky Mountain catchment service area.

Board went into Closed Session to discuss personnel and contracts on

motion of Mark West and second by Wendy Dalton. Board returned from Closed Session.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date