

February 18, 2009
Franklin, NC 28734

Social Services Board met this date in regular session. Members in attendance were Dom D'Ascoli, Wendy Dalton, Mark West and Director /Secretary. Meeting was called to order by Chairman D'Ascoli.

Year to Date financials were reviewed. DSS released \$100,000 of the county Medicaid funds and \$37,000 of the county IV-E foster care funds at request of County Management to help offset the \$1.4 million county budget deficit. The Medicaid funds were being under spent due to the Medicaid Swap where the state is assuming full financial responsibility for the non-federal Medicaid match. The IV-E foster care funds will be under spent due to a hold harmless provision for foster children in group care placements effective January 1, 2009 when the new foster care board rates were implemented.

Under old business, state is continuing to consider potential funding cuts to offset the state budget shortfall; however, no definite measures are impacting DSS yet. Caseloads for economic services continue to grow and the HelpLine continues to be busy. Wendy Dalton noted that CareNet has seen a 25% increase for help over this time last year.

Under new business, Director shared with Board a new Children's Services requirement that the DSS Director give foster children ages 12 and over the opportunity to meet and discuss their experiences in foster care. Two meetings are scheduled-one at a group home where several of the Macon County DSS foster children are placed and one at the DSS. Results of these focus group discussions will be given to Board. Department received \$43,500 in Adoption Incentive funding due to the number of special needs children that have been adopted into permanent homes. The additional funds are earmarked to support adoption and permanency planning efforts of foster children. Director reported a software company working on implementing NC Fast will be visiting DSS the end of February regarding how best to implement NC Fast from a local perspective. Company chose Macon County DSS to visit due to successful implementation of the Northwoods document imaging system. Board approved Wednesday, April 22 as DSS Appreciation Day, which the Board will sponsor a luncheon in recognition of the DSS employees.

Board went into Closed Session on motion of Mark West and second by Wendy Dalton to discuss personnel, contracting and confidential case information. Board returned to Open Session.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at 9:00 in the DSS Administrative Board Room.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date