

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

April 10, 2019

The Warren County Board of Social Services met in General Session at 10:00 a.m. on this date at the John Graham Center in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. Ms. Stella Rideout, Ms. Bertadean Baker, Ms. Betty O'Neal, Ms. Arconstar Powell, Ms. Robin Williams and Mr. Whitson, Board Secretary, were present. Ms. Rideout chaired the meeting.

Also in attendance were Ms. Lisa Alston, Human Resource Director and Brenda Abbott, taking the DSS Board Minutes.

Chairperson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Chairperson called for a moment of silence which was observed by all in attendance.

The minutes from the March 25, 2019 Social Services Board meeting were reviewed. The Chairperson called for a motion to approve minutes. Ms. Powell made a motion to approve the minutes after a minor correction was made, seconded by Ms. Baker. Motion carried.

Minutes from the Closed Session were reviewed. Chairperson called for a motion to approve the minutes: Ms. Baker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Williams. Motion carried.

Mr. Whitson briefed on his Director's Report which was included in the Board packet. Some of the items were to be discussed further in the Board Meeting. When asked if there were any questions, there were none.

FY 19-20 Budget: Mr. Whitson informed the Board that the 2019-2020 budget was sent in about one week after the County had requested it due to State Budget estimates being sent out in the middle of February, which is normal. The County was informed of this beforehand and understood.

Mr. Whitson informed the Board that the proposed budget is very similar to the current year's budget. No new positions or vehicles were requested. He did put in for a one per cent 401K contribution by the County but he expects that will be removed. That is really the only significant request.

Mr. Whitson is worried about Medicaid Transformation; specifically the impact it may have on Nonemergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). He did not take that into account in the budget he presented to the County as the State did not start providing information about it until recently.. It appears that Warren County DSS will stop providing or at least stop being reimbursed for NEMT beginning 01 NOV 19. We have 3 full-time drivers operating 3 vans currently. We also contract with KARTS and provide gas vouchers. Mr. Whitson is worried if the 700-800 clients currently served by this can be adequately served after Medicaid Transformation mainly due to Warren County being rural.

Mr. Whitson does intend to recommend to the County that Medicaid Transportation revenues be reduced by about \$100,000 in next year's budget. To partially offset this Mr. Whitson does not plan to replace a Social Worker who just resigned in the Crisis/Transportation Unit.

Mr. Whitson also shared that the federal benefits estimated to be received by clients through the Food & Nutrition Program dropped from approximately \$6.5 million to a little over \$5 million for next budget year.

Child Welfare NC FAST Update: 34 Counties were given the option to opt out of going live in NC FAST for Child Welfare services. The system is having lots of problems in the pilot counties. Mr. Whitson chose to opt out. Only Washington County on the coast chose to go live.

Medical Transportation: Mr. Whitson restated some of the information discussed earlier under the budget about NEMT and Medicaid Transformation.

He also shared that he had met with representatives of Warren Hills Nursing Home concerning eligibility determination on some of their residents. They were unhappy some residents were not approved and/or found to be not eligible during a redetermination. Some of these residents could be discharged and sent to live with relatives.

Mr. Whitson further shared that the current audit on Medicaid went well for the first month.

Personnel Update: Mr. Whitson thanked Ms. Alston, Human Resources Director, for her assistance in filling positions. Mr. Whitson informed the Board there would be interviews on the 23rd to fill the position in the Adult Medicaid Unit. There was a resignation in the Crisis and Medical Transportation Unit and Mr. Whitson restated his intentions not to fill the position.

Closed Session per General Statute NCGS 143-318.11 (6) (To discuss Personnel Matters):

Ms. Rideout called for a motion to go into Closed Session. Ms. O’Neal made a motion to close General Session at 10:35 a.m. and go into Closed Session, The motion was seconded by Ms. Powell.

Motion carried. Ms. Williams made a motion to leave Closed Session and go back into Open Session. It was seconded by Ms. Baker at 4:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Closing Comments: Ms. Rideout thanked everyone for attending and appreciated everyone’s support. Mr. Whitson thanked Ms. Rideout and the Board Members for the good work they are doing and for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Chairperson

Date

Secretary