

December 17, 2008  
Franklin, NC 28734

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

Regular Session and Closed Session minutes of the November 19, 2008 Board meeting were approved on motion of Mark West and second by Wendy Dalton.

Month to date financials were briefly reviewed. Medicaid expenditures are running below budget. Due to growing state budget deficit, state divisions are identifying additional budget cuts, which may impact local social services funding.

Under Old Business, Cindy Binkley, Foster Care Licensing Social Worker presented information on foster parent recruitment, training and licensure for the past year. Two 30 hour foster parent training sessions have been held which have resulted in 3 new foster homes being licensed in a year and 3 new foster homes in the process of being licensed. One-on-one foster parent training was completed with 2 families being licensed, and one family is in process of receiving the individualized training to be licensed. One-on-one training is only offered when foster children are being placed with a non licensed family already known to them. A new foster parent training session will be offered in February with 6 families already enrolled. Additional recruitment efforts for this class are ongoing.

Also under Old Business, caseload information was updated. Applications for Food and Nutrition Services continue at very high rate. 66 applications were received the first 5 days of December. Demand for all income maintenance programs will continue to increase due to recession.

Under New Business, Secretary shared copies of brief received at the N C Budget and Tax Center seminar on current and upcoming state budget. Current information forecasts the current state budget shortfall to be more than \$1.8 billion and the upcoming state budget shortfall to exceed \$3.3 billion. Secretary announced the establishment of the Macon Citizens HelpLine. Commissioner Ronnie Beale had requested a telephone resource and referral line be started due to the number of calls he and other county commissioners were receiving from citizens trying to identify assistance during the economic downturn. Virginia Casada's temporary employment with DSS was ending, so county approved her temporary part time position be extended until June 30, 2009 to operate the HelpLine due to her vast knowledge of community resources. HelpLine phone number is 349-2128 and is operational M-F, 8-5.

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, January 21, 2009 at 9:00 in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

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Chairman/Date

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Secretary/Date