

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
August 18, 2014

THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES MET ON MONDAY: August 18, 2014 at the Hillsborough Commons, Hillsborough, North Carolina.

BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Garavaglia, Chair; Claire Millar; Tamara Dempsey-Tanner; Earl McKee; and Ken Chavious.

GUEST: None.

BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES MEMBER ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Coston, Director; Denise Shaffer, Assistant Director; Lindsey Shewmaker, Human Services Manager; Jonathan Yeomans, Management Analyst; and Joyce Lee, Business Officer.

I. Call to Order and Introductions

DSS Chair, Pat Garavaglia, called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

II. Board Comments

Earl McKee mentioned a conference where Network of Care was discussed. He stated his interest in having discussions about doing something similar in Orange County.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Agenda Changes

None.

V. Action Items

On a motion by Claire Millar the Board approved the Minutes of July 28, 2014. Tamara Dempsey-Tanner seconded the motion. The motion was carried without dissent.

VI. Items for Discussion and/or Decision

1. Heusner Fund

Denise Shaffer explained the history of the Heusner Fund. Prior to the establishment of the fund, Ms. Heusner had donated regularly to foster children in Orange County. In the 1980s she set up a trust account in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for needs for foster children. She also continued to donate regularly. The money was moved the Triangle Community Foundation by her three children in the 1990s. The Heusner Fund was established with \$75,000 with the plan that once the value reached \$100,000 the interest would be used to support the needs of foster children. The money is no longer needed in the same way it once was. Ms. Shaffer noted that there have been some internal discussions about how to use the funds to benefit children. One suggestion was utilizing the funds to support children placed with relatives. The agency would like to get a small committee together to pursue different ways to use these funds.

Pat Garavaglia asked whether families who take in related foster children receive payments to help

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support the children. Ms. Shaffer replied that families must be licensed to receive the board payment and only about half of relative placements do that. Other families are only eligible for an approximately \$180 per month child only Work First payment and Medicaid. Ms. Shaffer noted that she would love to hear about other ideas from the Board.

Ken Chavious asked whether there was any psychological training as part of the college programs with Durham Tech or Second Family. Ms. Garavaglia responded that she would look into the program further. Earl McKee also noted he would follow up with Renee Price who is one the Durham Tech Board.

Ms. Shaffer noted that there is about \$98,000 in the Heusner Fund currently and the spendable interest is about \$30,000. She added there is a good amount of money that could be used to support these children.

2. Final Expenditures/Revenues for FY13-14

Joyce Lee reviewed the final expenditures and revenues for fiscal year 2013-14. She highlighted the fact that the county costs spent by the agency were almost \$200,000 less than originally budgeted. Earl McKee asked whether the county reverted funds. Ms. Lee responded that a small amount of child care funds were reverted as mentioned previously, but few funds are generally reverted.

Nancy Coston noted that it takes two months to receive revenue from the state and sometimes Finance has concerns that the agency has not received all the revenue. She also reminded the Board that the agency is responsible for managing an additional \$130,000,000 worth of public assistance benefits that do not show up on the budget.

3. Flood Report

Jonathan Yeomans presented the final report on the Orange County flood that occurred in late June of 2013. Earl McKee asked how many total units were lost and how many were Section 8. Nancy Coston replied that none of the units were lost. They will all be rebuilt at some point. Everyone that the agency worked with has now been relocated and the effort saved the state about \$47,000. The state feels that this was a huge success even though it was a lot of work for agency staff.

4. Energy Outreach Plan

Lindsey Shewmaker informed the Board that due to some changes at the state, the LIHEAP outreach plans done annually must now be approved by the Social Services Board.

Claire Millar made a motion to approve the outreach plan as written. Earl McKee seconded the motion. The motion was carried without dissent.

5. Director's Report

Nancy Coston noted she was currently serving on the NC FAST Advisory Group, the Work Support Leadership Group, the Child Welfare Fiscal Committee, the MAC Work Group, and the Work First Planning Committee. She is also serving on the Poverty Council, the Space Study, and the Jail Alternatives Work Group locally.

Ms. Coston noted that Smart Start had to earmark some child care funding to match other programs which lowered the amount available for subsidy. The cut in funding had nothing to do with the

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agency. She also noted she attended a Smart Start meeting today where child care advocates reviewed all the changes made by the General Assembly. The bottom line is that fewer children will be eligible for child care subsidy. There will be another \$600,000 cut to the county's child care allocation that will be recurring to balance new census data used in the allocation formula. At the next Board Meeting staff will present the impact of all these changes.

VII. Announcements

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2014 at the Hillsborough Commons, 113 Mayo Street, Hillsborough, North Carolina at 4:00 pm.

Tamara Dempsey-Tanner moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm. Claire Millar seconded the motion. The motion was carried without dissent.

Submitted by

Nancy Coston
Director

Pat Garavaglia
Chair