

**LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD MEETING
November 17th, 2015**

The Board of Social Services for the Lee County Department of Social Services convened at 12:00 noon, in the Board of Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina. Board members present were Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Paul Utley, Gail Dickens, and Commissioner Amy Dalrymple. Also present was Ex-Officio member Brenda Potts.

Chairperson Livingston called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the serenity prayer.

The Board considered changes to the November agenda. No changes being made a motion was made by Member Utley to accept.

Aye: Gail Dickens, Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Paul Utley, and Amy Dalrymple.

Nay: None

The Board considered changes to the October minutes. No changes being made a motion was made by Member Riddle to accept.

Aye: Gail Dickens, Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Paul Utley and Amy Dalrymple.

Nay: None

PUBLIC COMMENT - No one signed up to speak during the Public Comments section of the meeting.

The meeting was turned over to DSS Director Brenda Potts.

NEW BUSINESS-

Ms. Potts discussed the energy programs, the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) is a federally funded program that provides assistance to eligible households that are in a heating or cooling related emergency. The goal of the CIP program is to help families stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. By doing so this reduces the risk of health and safety problems such as illness, fire or eviction. All payments are made directly to the vendor and benefits cannot exceed \$600.00 per State fiscal year (July through June). A household that applies must have at least one U.S. Citizen or a non-citizen who meets certain eligibility criteria, meet an income test and be in a heating or cooling related emergency. We use a temperature guideline for CIP. 40 degrees or below for a normal household and 50 degrees or below for a household that has a member in it that a physician furnishes a note that their medical condition would be life threatening. Effective December 1 the heating source will have to be in the applicant's name it has in the past been in children's names, or family members names.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program is also a federally funded program that provides for a one time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills. The first group starts December

1, and this is households containing an elderly person age 60 and above or a disabled person receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services. This runs December 1st through December 31st or until funds are exhausted. On January 1st through March 31st or until funds are exhausted any household can apply and receive benefits. You must have at least one U.S. Citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria, meet an income test and have reserves at or below \$2250.00 and be responsible for its heating bills.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Ms. Potts advised the board that in the event they receive an email regarding a case situation that they can refer the case to her and she will advise them of anything that can be released by statute. Ms. Potts then referred to Melissa Lett to update the board on the vacant positions and the status of those positions.

CLOSED SESSION - Vice Chairperson Dickens moved for the Board to go into closed session to consider a personnel matter per N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6);
Mr. Riddle seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Gail Dickens, Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Paul Utley, and Amy Dalrymple.
Nay: None

Chairperson Livingston ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the Board was in closed session.

Upon returning from closed session, the regular meeting resumed with members Livingston, Dickens, Utley, Riddle and Dalrymple present.

With no further business to come before the Board Member Riddle moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Dickens. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Gail Dickens, Ophelia Livingston, David Riddle, Paul Utley, and Amy Dalrymple
Nay: None

Chairperson Livingston ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the meeting adjourned.



Chairman



Secretary