

# LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING

May 21st, 2013

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 of the Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina. Board members present were, David Riddle, Paul Utley, Ophelia Livingston, and Gail Dickens. Also present was Brenda Potts, Ex-Officio.

Chairperson, Mr. Riddle called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. Mr. Riddle asked if there were any changes to the May agenda, Mrs. Potts requested that Item VI. NC FAST Update be moved to the next meeting. Mr. Riddle asked all in favor.

Aye: Riddle, Dickens, Utley, Parks  
Nay: none, motion carries.

Mr. Riddle asked if there were any adjustments or changes to the April Board minutes, there being none, Mr. Riddle asked all in favor.

Aye: Riddle, Dickens, Utley, a Livingston joined the meeting at this time, Parks.  
Nay: none, motion carrier.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** No one for Public Comment

**NEW BUSINESS-** Mrs. Potts introduced Mrs. Lisa Shearer, Child Protective Services Supervisor and Mrs. Margaret Johnson, Program Manager for Children's Services. Mrs. Potts explained to the board that she had asked Lisa to come today and present a program on Children's Services as part of the continuing education for the board members. Lisa presented a power point on Child Protective Services. In beginning her presentation Lisa, explained that Child Protective Services are "legally mandated, non-voluntary services," independent of income, for families that include specialized services for abused, neglected or dependent children and children who are "at imminent risk of harm due to the actions of, or lack of protection by, the child's parent or caregiver." The goal of CPS' is to protect children from further harm while supporting and enhancing the abilities and skills of the parents or caretakers in order to "assure a safe, nurturing home for each child." She went on to explain that there are two kinds of assessments, (1) Family Assessment and (2) Investigative Assessment. Family Assessment is about 90% of the cases, less serious; they work with the family to come up with solutions for themselves more family centered. Investigative Assessment is for abuse and serious neglect cases; less family centered and more punitive. Mr. Riddle asked Lisa if when they do remove a child if the local Sheriff or Police Dept. goes with them. Lisa stated no, they have a repoire with the families. She stated that CPS works with the whole family to determine needs and then tries to supply each family member with needed services, knowledge and skills so the children can be in a safe environment that meets at least minimum standards. CPS attempts to preserve families, to keep children in the own home through the provision of services. Infrequently, this is not possible because the safety of the children cannot be assured. Then, CPS removes children from the home and the agency assumes custody. Children in the agency's custody then receive services through our Foster Care/Adoption social workers. Lisa went on to give the organizational chart of the Lee County DSS Children's Services; Supervisor (CPS), Supervisor (Foster Care/ Adoptions), 4 SW Investigators/Assessors, 1 On-Call SW, 1 Intake SW, 1 In Home Services SW, 2 Foster Care SW's, 1

Adoptions SW and 1 Foster Parent Recruiter/Trainer SW. Lisa continued with the most important issue in CPS is the Confidentiality. Information received or generated by a county DSS in the course of a CPS assessment "shall be held in the strictest confidence by the department' and may be disclosed only when specifically permitted by state of federal law. (NCGS 108A-80 and 78-302 (A1)). Due to this families become upset with CPS and try to go around them by called the DSS Director, members of the DSS Board, County Commissioners, the County Manager, the press and even the Governor's office. However, CPS can't disclose any information to these people either. Lisa concluded with explaining the process of reporting Child abuse and neglect. Mr. Riddle commended Lisa and Margaret on the work that they do and for their dedication and professionalism.

**NC FAST UPDATE-** Carried over to the June Board Meeting.

Mr. Utley moved to go into Closed Session-**To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes per NCGS 143-138.11(a)(1).**

Mr. Riddle asked all in favor.

Aye: Parks, Utley, Riddle, Livingston, and Dickens

Nay: None

Mr. Riddle ruled the motion carried and the Board was in closed session.

The board came out of closed session and a motion was made by Olivia Livingston and second by Paul Utley to go out of closed session; the regular board meeting resumed with all members.

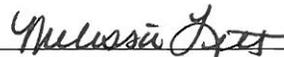
Mr. Parks made comment that at this time there was a bill being made into law that all closed sessions would have to be recorded upon passing of this bill.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT-**No updates at this time.

There being no further business brought before the Board, Mr. Riddle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Utley made a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Livingston, seconded the vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.



David Riddle, Chairman Board of  
Lee Department of Social Services



Melissa Lett, Secretary to the Board  
Lee Department of Social Services