

LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING

October 16, 2012

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, Linda Shook, Gail Dickens, Paul Utley and Ophelia Livingston. 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 October agenda, there were none. Mr. Riddle asked all in favor.

Aye: Linda Shook, David Riddle, Gail Dickens, Paul Utley and Ophelia Livingston

Nay: none, motion carries.

Mr. Riddle asked if there were any adjustments or changes to the September Board minutes, Mr. Riddle requested that clarification be added to the Director's Report concerning the whooping cough, "shot". Mrs. Shook made a motion the September Board minutes be accepted as amended. Mrs. Dickens seconded the motion, motion carries. The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Potts.

NEW BUSINESS

Child Support Program Monitoring-Mrs. Potts introduced Robyn Henningsen, Child Support Supervisor. She explained that Robyn would be discussing the Child Support data Reliability Audit. At the end of each Federal Fiscal Year, the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) conducts a Data Reliability Audit to review all areas in child support cases in which Incentive money is paid. 2010 North Carolina scored an 88% efficiency rate in the "Children Born out of Wedlock with Paternity Established or Acknowledged" area. Cases must have a 95% efficiency rate in each review area or the state fails. If a state fails the same category 2 years in a row, they can be penalized by Incentive Funds being withheld. So N. C. ran the risk of facing a \$3 million dollar penalty that could be assessed each year until the area is back in compliance. The state was proactive in creating reports to filter cases that could potentially fail for each county. Reports were 100's of pages long. Lee County Child Support staff received these reports and worked them along with numerous other clean up reports to make sure cases are documented correctly and thoroughly in order to be in complete compliance with federal regulations. The staff has participated in several conference calls dedicated to the audit in order to train staff and make sure they have a thorough understanding of how the cases need to be coded and cleaned up. In February, the Federal office of Child Support audited North Carolina for 2011. All cases pulled for the Audit from Lee County passed. We received word late August that N.C. passed this area this year and other categories. No worries about penalties and we will receive our Incentive Money. But we have been told it will be January before they issue any Incentive money. Monthly case reviews and reports are completed now in order to ensure our cases are routinely correct. Each time a case is touched, the paternity coding is reviewed to make sure it is correct. This unit works very hard to meet their goals set by the state and their individual goals. We have a total caseload of around 2800 cases. In 2011, we collected \$4,843,963. \$181,298 was collected in court. Ms. Henningsen sent a letter to Judge Corbett in August 2012 informing him of what we achieved in 2011/2012 along with a spreadsheet of collections on each

court date by Judge. I also wanted to thank him and the other Judges for the job they do in helping us to collect child support. The Spreadsheet follows:

2011 – 2012 Lee County Child Support Achievements

Unit Incentive Goals	<u>as of 6/30/12</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Total Collections	\$4,843,963.00	\$4,977,756.00
CSUP Coll Rate	64.27%	65.72%
Arres Coll Rate	68.02%	68.28%
Cases under Order	86.71%	87.95%
Paternity Est	103.46%	105.00%

Unit Self-Assessment Goals	<u>as of 6/30/12</u>	<u>State Average</u>
Case Closure (90%)	100%	99.19%
6 Months Exp (75%)	93.06%	89.38%
12 Months Exp (90%)	99.29%	94.74%
Establishment (75%)	81.76%	63.33%
Enforcement (75%)	85.05%	79.74%
Medical Insurance (75%)	87.02%	84.84%
Rev & Adj (Incl) (75%)	97.70%	97.41%
Rev & Adj (Needed) (75%)	90.54%	87.43%
Interstate(75%)	84.27%	79.10%

Unit Activities Completed

Non-System Locates	414
Paternities Est'd	345
Initial Obligations	310
Modifications	412
Wage Withholdings	1320
Other Enforcements	2601
Total Collections	\$4,843,963.00
Court Collections	\$181,298.08

Robyn also expressed that although Dale has been missed terribly, the new attorney Tron Faulk was transitioning well and had recently took it upon herself to contact another attorney to discuss the unprofessional treatment of the Child Support staff while on the stand testifying. Mrs. Shook asked how the monies are distributed between counties when the mother/father may have more than one child by a different mother/father. Mrs. Potts explained that the state prorates the money collected by the number of orders. Ms. Henningsen also explained that the Feds had originally wanted a paperless system, so in 1998 a system was created in order to eliminate paper. Now the Feds have decided that they would require paper documents in each file such as the court order, divorce decree, birth certificates. Now ever time a worker touches a case, they have to make sure there are copies of those items in the file: literally set up a case file. Mrs. Potts informed the board that the cases that were subjected to the audit were from October 1, 2010-September 30, 2011.

Director's Report- Mrs. Potts informed the board that recently she and the other county department heads attended a countywide training on worker's comp with HR. HR will begin identifying what the staff member can do in order to not remain at home if they are given a doctor's note for limited duty. Just recently someone turned their ankle and Joyce put them on the HR front desk. Other light duties that could be done are the opening the mail and stamping, shredding. The worker would receive the same level of pay and obviously this would keep them attached to the county and not remaining at home. Mrs. Shook reminded the board that Lee County is self-funded for worker's comp.

Mrs. Potts then told the board about the new Wellness Plan that would start next year. HR will be meeting with all county employees to explain the benefits of this plan and how it could make the staff healthier. This process could eventually help with our health insurance premium cost. . The plan will also be open for adult family members that are also covered by the county insurance.

In the Department Head Meeting earlier today Mr. Crumpton notified the Dept. Heads that the capital spending had been lifted. During the same meeting they were told that Lee County has been certified as a retirement community.

Mrs. Potts shared also with the board the 2013 NC General Assembly's Long Session and the top 4 Legislative Program Priorities; (1) Adult Services-Increase funding to Social Services due to Mental Health will no longer serve as guardians. Judges make us guardians without exploring the families, (2) Child Care Subsidy-Go through Social Services. A few years ago we had 1 position that we RIF'd due to the funding. (3) TANF-Fully Fund TANF services, and (4) IV-E Funding.

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


Chairman


Secretary