



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Social Services Commission Quarterly Meeting**  
**March 13, 2024**

**I. Call to Order**

1. Chairman Pledger called the Social Services quarterly meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Meeting was in person and virtual using Go-To-Webinar.
2. Chairman Pledger read the ethic statement/conflicts of interest statement; being that there were none, Paris Penny proceeded to call the roll.
3. Social Services Commission roll call:
  - a. **Commissioners in attendance and constituting a quorum were:** Chairman Drew Pledger, Ernestine Taylor, Brandie Walser, Samantha Branch, Jeanne Lindquist, Dr. Tia Crooms, Margie Christopher, Cindy Locklear, Willa Wyatt, and Tanisha James
  - b. **Commissioners absent:** Robert Simmons, Rebecca Andrews, and Wixie Stephens
  - c. **DHHS Staff Present:** Paris Penny (DSS), David Lee (DSS), Lisa Cauley (DSS), Misty Piekaar-McWilliams (DAAS), and Jay Pontier (NC FAST)
  - d. **DOJ Staff Present:** Adrian Dellinger, Tom Campbell and Coleen Crowley
  - e. **Others:** Charles Lycette, Dare County Health and Human Services Director, Julie Ventaloro, OSBM
4. Chairman Drew Pledger provided introductions and opening remarks.
5. Motion by Jeanne Lindquist to move and approve the meeting minutes from December 13, 2023. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.

**II. New Business**

1. Appointments to county boards of social services to fill the seats. Applications voted upon as follows:
  - a. Congressional District 6:
    - i. Motion by Commissioner Ernestine Taylor to move to appoint Marceai Foster to Caswell County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Willa Wyatt and carried without dissent.

**III. Presentations**

Behavioral Health Services for Child Welfare Services by Lisa Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family and Adult, Regional Support, Aging, Housing, and Operations. Slide deck will be provided to the Commission and on the website.

**IV. Staff Comments**

Pleased to announce DSS Regional Support Model Map. This is in follow up to Rylan’s law and regional support model. Hired lead regional director, Ben Rose. Hired three regional directors: Brandie Mann (Region 7), Will Wakefield (Region 1), Donna Fayko (Region 2). Region 4 and 6 are reposted. Region 3 and 5 are in process to be hired. Each regional director is in charge of 14 or so counties within their region. They provide support and guidance to DSS directors, providing coaching, mentoring and guiding to directors themselves.

Engaging in internal planning to build up model of regional directors to improve capacity of DSS directors. Conducting focus groups with regional directors.

Anson, Burke, Iredell, and Wayne counties did not receive any applications so another public notice will be issued along with counties that have terms expiring in June.

**V. Commission Comments**

Information is not current on county websites about current board chairs so staff support will request current information from counties and add it to the master spreadsheet with director name, number, email and board chair name, number, and email.

**VI. Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to adjourn the quarterly meeting at 10:56 a.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.

**The next quarterly meeting is June 12, 2024.**