



Meeting Minutes
Social Services Commission Quarterly Meeting
June 12, 2024

I. Call to Order

1. Chairman Pledger called the Social Services quarterly meeting to order at 10:02 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, Willa Wyatt, and Tanisha James, Robert Simmons, Rebecca Andrews, Wixie Stephens
 - b. **Commissioners absent:** Kelsey Crowe and Cindy Locklear
 - c. **DHHS Staff Present:** Paris Penny (DSS), Danielle Upchurch (DSS), Brandy Mann (DSS), Brenda Brown (DSS), Donna Fayko (DSS), William Wakefield (DSS), Marionna Stewart-Poke (OEO), Misty Piekaar-McWilliams (DAS), LaDonna Huffaker (DHHS), and Jay Pontier (NC FAST)
 - d. **DOJ Staff Present:** Adrian Dellinger, Tom Campbell and Colleen Crowley
 - e. **Others:** Charles Lycette, Dare County Health and Human Services Director
4. Chairman Drew Pledger provided introductions and opening remarks.
5. Motion by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist to move and approve the meeting minutes from March 13, 2024. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wixie Stephens 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 1:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to reappoint Mamie Scott to Halifax County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to reappoint Maudie Chambers to Hertford County Department of Social Services

- Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent. Ms. Chambers is a county commissioner.
- iii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Lola Roundtree to Gates County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews and carried without dissent.
 - b. Congressional District 3:
 - iv. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint Patsy Pierce to Beaufort County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ernestine Taylor and carried without dissent.
 - c. Congressional District 9:
 - v. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to allow more time to vet applicant, Dorothy B Tyson to Scotland County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Willa Wyatt and carried without dissent.
 - d. Congressional District 10:
 - vi. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint John Day to Burke County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Willa Wyatt and carried without dissent.
 - vii. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Keith Bowman to Burke County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - e. Congressional District 13:
 - viii. Motion by Commissioner Brandie Walser to move to reappoint Kenneth Jones to Duplin County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.

III. Presentations

Regional Support Model by Brandy Mann. Slide deck will be provided to the Social Services Commission and on the Social Services Commission's website.

Office of Economic Opportunity by Marionna Poke-Stewart. Slide deck will be provided to the Social Services Commission and on the Social Services Commission's website.

Following the presentation by Marionna Poke-Stewart, Misty Piekaar-McWilliams informed the commissioners that rules related to the Office of Economic Opportunity are in the midst of the periodic review process. Motion by Commissioner Simmons to make an initial determination that all rules in 10A NCAC 97 are necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lindquist and carried without dissent.

Presentation by LaDonna Huffaker regarding her personal experience as a foster care parent. Despite knowing the system professionally, the system appeared fragmented and hard to navigate. Commissioners asked questions of Ms. Huffaker.

IV. Staff Comments

The update about Kinship Care will be provided at the September 11, Social Services Commission meeting because the child welfare section is attending IMPACT training today.

Anson, Ashe, Tyrrell, and Wayne counties did not receive any applications so another public notice will be issued.

V. Commission Comments

Commissioner Rebecca Andrews appreciated presentation today and gained knowledge about the structure.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to adjourn the quarterly meeting at 11:30 a.m.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Wixie Stephens and carried without dissent.

The next quarterly meeting is September 11, 2024.