



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Social Services Commission Quarterly Meeting**  
**June 14, 2023, 12:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order**

1. Chairman Pledger called the Social Services quarterly meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Meeting was hybrid of in-person and virtual using Go-To-Webinar.
2. Chairman Pledger read the ethic statement/conflicts of interest statement; being that there were none, Gwen Waller 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, Rebecca Andrews, Anthony Anderson, Brandie Walser, Samantha Branch, Jeanne Lindquist, Dr. Tia Crooms, Margie Christopher, Willa Wyatt, Vice Chairman Robert Simmons, Cindy Locklear, and Tanisha James
  - b. **Commissioners absent:** Kelsey Crowe
  - c. **DHHS Staff Present:** Paris Penny (DSS), Gwen Waller (DSS), Mike Leighs (DSS), and Jay Pontier (NC FAST)
  - d. **DOJ Staff Present:** Adrian Dellinger and Cara Shanahan (Duke law student intern)
  - e. **Others:**
4. Chairman Drew Pledger provided introductions and opening remarks. Introduced new commissioners, Rebecca (Becki) Andrews and Ernestine Taylor.
5. Motion by Chairman Pledger to move and approve the meeting minutes from March 8, 2023, with removal of b.(i) and to change “motion by Chairman Pledger to Chairman Pledger requested a motion” for the appointments to county boards of social services. Chairman Pledger requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 8, 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 1:
    - i. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to reappoint James Moss, Jr. to Franklin County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
    - ii. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Gates

- County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tanisha James and carried without dissent.
- iii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to reappoint Lorraine Washington to Greene County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
  - iv. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to reappoint Sylvia Vincent to Northampton County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Andy Anderson and carried without dissent.
  - v. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Dr. Andrea Williams to Pasquotank County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
  - vi. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Vance County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
  - vii. Motion by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Wilson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
- b. Congressional District 3:
- i. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint Kathern Jackson to Currituck County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
  - ii. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Jones County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
  - iii. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to reappoint Wendy Furlough to Washington County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
  - iv. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to reappoint James Blount to Beaufort County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- c. Congressional District 4:
- i. Motion by Commissioner Crooms to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Durham County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.

- ii. Motion by Commissioner Ernestine Taylor to defer to the next quarterly meeting to vet applicants to Alamance County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
  - iii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to defer to the next quarterly meeting to vet applicants to Granville County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
- d. Congressional District 7:
  - i. Motion by Commissioner Tanisha James to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Cumberland County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- e. Congressional District 8:
  - i. Motion by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Davidson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
  - ii. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Rowan County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- f. Congressional District 9:
  - i. Motion by Commissioner Cindy Locklear to move to appoint Deana Locklear to Robeson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
- g. Congressional District 10:
  - i. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Sarah Temple to Catawba County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
  - ii. Motion by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews to move to appoint Lisa Hicks to Avery County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
  - iii. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to reappoint Sarah Temple to Catawba County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
  - iv. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Daphne Ingram to Lincoln County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.

- i. Congressional District 11:
  - v. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Cherokee County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
  - vi. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Tyree Griffin to Transylvania County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
  - vii. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Jeanne Tyner to Yancey County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
  - viii. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Michael Williams to Macon County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- j. Congressional District 13:
  - i. Motion by Commissioner Brandi Walser to move to reappoint James Coleman to Johnston County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.

**III. Presentations**

Mike Leighs presented about the NCGA 2023 Legislative Session and Medicaid expansion.

**IV. Staff Comments**

Lee County passed the resolution to consolidate their local board. This resolution this is effective July 12, 2023.

S.L. 2022-23 Congressional Districts does have counties that split into more than one congressional district. There is no requirement that the commissioner vet applicants within the congressional county they represent. It is a best practice. Suggested to look at the counties that have this overlap and if they have a social services board, then determine which commissioner to vet the applicant. Also look at which commissioners have more counties and other commissioners may need to assist.

Upcoming leadership transitions for DHHS:

- Susan Osborne will take on the role of Deputy Secretary of Opportunity and Well-Being, also effective June 2. Mike Leighs will take on the role of Chief of Staff for Susan Osborne.

**V. Commission Comments**

Commissioner Wyatt commented that not all applicants complete information on the application and has been informed not all information asked is required. Commissioner

Wyatt asked if information is not required, can it be removed from the application? No discussion or motion was brought forward.

Commissioner Margie Christopher raised concerns that she was hearing from counties that children in foster care are sleeping in inappropriate settings (DSS offices, hospitals). This is not right for the children or staff. Requested to know how the money will be spent for the \$44M to help with this problem. Staff support will bring information forward to the September quarterly meeting about the appropriations bill and plan for managing this situation.

**VI. Adjournment**

Motion by Chairman Drew Pledger to adjourn the quarterly meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Motion carried by Commissioner Margie Christopher. Seconded by Commissioner Willa Wyatt and carried without dissent.

**The next quarterly meeting is September 13, 2023.**