



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

DREW PLEDGER Chairman

Meeting Minutes
Social Services Commission Quarterly Meeting
September 13, 2023

I. Call to Order

1. Chairman Pledger called the Social Services quarterly meeting to order at 10:02 p.m. Meeting was 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, Wixie Stephens, and Tanisha James
 - b. **Commissioners absent:**
 - c. **DHHS Staff Present:** Paris Penny (DSS), Gwen Waller (DSS), Misty L. Piekaar-McWilliams (DAAS), Glenda Artis (DAAS), and Jay Pontier (NC FAST)
 - d. **DOJ Staff Present:** Adrian Dellinger
 - e. **Others:**
4. Chairman Drew Pledger provided introductions and opening remarks.
5. Motion by Chairman Pledger to move and approve the meeting minutes from June 14, 2023. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist 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 Margie Christopher to move to appoint Myriah Wolfrey to Gates County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tanisha James and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Morris Rascoe to Bertie County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Susie Littlejohn to Chowan County Department of Social Services Board.

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- Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
- iv. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Jacob Meetez to Martin County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - v. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Heather Kenney to Vance County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
 - vi. Motion by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist to move to appoint Linda Cooper Suggs to Wilson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - vii. Motion by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist to move to appoint Kimyatta Anderson to Pitt 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 defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Hyde County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to repost the public notice for Jones County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Lenoir County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
- c. Congressional District 4:
- i. Motion by Commissioner Ernestine Taylor to move to appoint Darrell Warner to Alamance County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Ernestine Taylor to move to appoint Jacqueline Beatty-Smith to Durham County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Juanita Hinman to Granville County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
- d. Congressional District 6:

- i. Motion by Commissioner Tanisha James to defer to the next quarterly meeting to allow more time to vet applicants to Randolph County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- e. Congressional District 7:
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Tanisha James to move to appoint Dennis Corbin to Cumberland County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- f. Congressional District 8:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist to move to appoint Edwin Dawson 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 move to appoint Lisa Davis to Rowan County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- g. Congressional District 9:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Cindy Locklear to move to appoint Jessica Ledbetter to Moore County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
- h. Congressional District 10:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Jerrell Suddreth to Caldwell County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- i. Congressional District 11:
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to appoint James Jallah to Cherokee County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Melinda Lawrence to Henderson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - iv. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Stephen Anfinson to Jackson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
 - v. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Michael Fox to Jackson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.

- vi. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Karen Vilkinski to Madison County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.

III. Presentations

Misty L. Piekaar-McWilliams, the rule-making coordinator for the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, sought approval to amend rule 10A NCAC 06T .0201 (Nature and Purpose of State Adult Day Care Fund) as mandated by NC Session Law 2021-180. Ms. Piekaar-McWilliams explained the proposed rule amendment had been submitted previously in 2022, but upon submission of the rule to the Rules Review Commission, the staff attorney to the Rules Review Commission requested the agency to seek legislative clarification that a county department of social services, or their designee, is responsible for rate setting for adult day services under the State Adult Day Care Fund. Session Law 2023-65 provides the clarification needed to resubmit this rule. The Division of Aging & Adult Services sought approval of rule 10A NCAC 06T .0201 as amended so the agency may proceed in the rule-making process.

IV. Staff Comments

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

NCDHHS has been working closely with Nash County DSS since March 2023 to address serious concerns over their practice and delivery of child welfare services. Nash County DSS has not made progress toward addressing these concerns resulting in a substantial threat to the safety and welfare of children. Due to the urgency of this situation, NCDHHS is taking action to assume control over Nash County's child welfare services and will be on site on Sept. 12, 2023.

North Carolina has not passed a budget for 2023-2025. Therefore, we request to table the discussion about how money will be spent to help child welfare (i.e., children in ER or DSS offices). Contingent upon a budget, staff support will bring information forward to the December quarterly meeting about the appropriations bill and plan for managing this situation.

V. Commission Comments

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Chairman Drew Pledger to adjourn the quarterly meeting at 11:25 a.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.

The next quarterly meeting is December 13, 2023.

