

# **Rutherford County**



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Wednesday, July 17, 2019**

**4:00 PM**

**289 N. Main Street Rutherfordton Commissioner's Chambers**

### **Social Services Board**

## I. Welcome and Call to Order

*Attendees: Mrs. Jacqueline Hampton, Mrs. Barbara Thompson, Mr. Joseph Maimone (via conference call), Mr. Bryan King (via conference call)*

*Absent: Mr. David Herndon*

*Staff: Mr. John Carroll, Mr. Warren Sparrow, Mrs. Pam Price*

## II. Discussion and Adoption of Agenda

*A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Bryan King, seconded by Member Joseph Maimone that the Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:  
approved*

**Aye:** 4 - Member Maimone, Chairperson Thompson, King and Hampton

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Member Herndon

## III. Adoption of Minutes

*A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Bryan King, seconded by Member Joseph Maimone that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:  
approved*

**Aye:** 4 - Member Maimone, Chairperson Thompson, King and Hampton

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Member Herndon

[ID 19-2131](#) **Minutes - June 19, 2019**

**Attachments:** [SSB-Minutes \(June 2019\)](#)

## IV. Public Comments

*No Public Comments*

## V. Election Of 2019-20 Chairman and Vice Chairman

*Mr. Maimone made a motion to nominate Mrs. Thompson as Chairperson, Mr. King seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Maimone made a motion to nominate Mr. King as Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.*

## VI. Budget Discussion

[ID 19-2133](#) **Budget Discussion - Pam Price**

**Attachments:** [Budget Discussion 0719](#)

**[ID 19-2134](#) Financial Report - Pam Price****Attachments:** [Financial Report - June 2019](#)

*Mrs. Price stated that for the period of twelve months ending June 17, 2019, the Administration General Fund costs are at 95.6%, which is 4.4% under budget and the Program General Fund costs are at 111.7%, which is 11.7% over budget. The funding remaining in the general fund for administrative costs is \$126,255.37, and the program costs has an average of \$166,945.24, which leaves a deficit of \$40,689.87 from the General Fund. This amount will be lower when the \$23,294.07 sales tax and when the Finance Director posts funds from the Fund Balance for the roof replacement which is \$94,298.00. Therefore, the final general fund balance will be \$76,902.20. The administrative lines that were over budget the most were Regular Salaries which included the pay and class study and the 1% COLA that was not budgeted. Also the replacement of the roof caused the Maintenance to the Building & Grounds expense line to be over, but will be covered by the Fund Balance. The Program Costs are over budget primarily due to the increase in Foster Care costs and Drug Screenings. The Foster Care have increased dramatically this year and we never know how to budget. The drug screenings invoices and charges are being reviewed.*

**VII. Personnel Report****[ID 19-2132](#) Personnel Report as of 6/30/19 - John Carroll****Attachments:** [Personnel Report - 19-6-30](#)

*Mr. Carroll presented the Personnel Report noting that since the last meeting, there has been one new hire, one transfer w/in the agency, one resignation, and one retirement. There are currently three vacancies - SW I/A&T in which an offer has been made, an IMC III, and a SW III.*

*There was a decrease in total comp time of 6% from last month. There were increases in both CPS and Foster Care for a total of 3% increase Children's Services. There were decreases in all Income Maintenance areas with a total 19% decrease for all of Income Maintenance.*

**VIII. Service Report****[ID 19-2135](#) Service Report - John Carroll****Attachments:** [Report of Services - June 2019](#)

*Mr. Carroll presented the Service Report. He called attention to a 72% increase in APS reports since last month. Increases have been occurring in APS and Guardianship over the past five years. There was an increase of \$893,041 in the Social Services Block Grant in the House/Senate budget to be used for additional staff. It is not certain whether these funds will support existing positions. He reminded the Board that the County pays about 81% of the cost for adult services and the State less than 1%.*

**IX. Program Updates:**

## 1. Social Work

*Mr. Sparrow stated that the only update he has is regarding the drug screenings. He has met with the vendor that does the screenings regarding the testing and the amount of testing that the social workers are requesting. He feels like we have been testing some when we should not have been. He has formed a committee to work on a protocol for the drug screenings.*

## 2. Economic Services

[ID 19-2136](#) **2019 Energy Programs Outreach Plan Acceptance Letter - Kandi Bridges**

**Attachments:** [2019 Energy Programs Outreach Plan Acceptance Letter](#)

*Mr. Carroll stated that a letter from DHHS was received showing the Agency's Energy Programs Outreach Plan was approved for 2019-2020. The Board approved the plan at the June meeting.*

## 3. Director's Report

[ID 19-2137](#) **Director's Report - John Carroll**

**Attachments:** [Director's Report - 0719](#)

[ID 19-2138](#) **Proposed Legislative Bills Update - John Carroll**

**Attachments:** [Proposed Legislative Bills - Update](#)

*Mr. Carroll referred the Board to the updates on the legislative bills list and briefly commented on several of these.*

*Senator Bill 212/House Bill 320 - (Delay NC FAST for Child Welfare) - These bills seek to delay further implementation of NC FAST in Child Welfare because of the problems with the system experienced by the pilot counties. These concerns have been discussed with the Board over the past year. Rutherford was originally scheduled to go live this month. Other things were added to this bill, and the only change, as far as NC FAST is concerned, is that it says that the State cannot implement prior to May 1, 2020, and this was October 2019. This is not what was hoped for, but there will be an opportunity to advocate for change during the legislative short session in the Spring. It also added that the Program Evaluation Oversight Committee conduct a study of the system and submit it by May 1 so this study may make some difference in the decisions that are made in the coming year.*

*Senate Bill 3/House Bill 5 (Medicaid Expansion) - These bills did not pass, but funding was included in the General Assembly's budget to the Governor, it was vetoed. The Governor presented a compromised budget to the General Assembly that included Medicaid Expansion and many leaders in the GA have said that they will not accept the compromise. The House Health Committee did approve HB 655 (NC Health Care for Working Families) and it was to go to the full House for a vote, which has not happened. This looks like the House is willing to consider some type of Medicaid expansion. HB 655 is a different version of expansion that includes work requirements, premiums, and co-pays.*

*Senate Bill 538/House Bill 539 - (Temporary Financial Assistance for SA Facilities) - These bills did not pass, but the General Assembly included an increase from \$34 to \$70 in their budget. It is not expected that this will change since Medicaid Expansion seems to be the reason that the Governor vetoed the budget. This will increase County cost by approximately \$3,000 based on our current caseload. The concern with this temporary assistance as opposed to raising the Special Assistance rate is, it continues to limit those individuals that may be eligible, because the income limit for eligibility is the same as the rate. This temporary assistance benefits the facilities, but not people that may need to be placed. There is a big difference between the Special Assistance rate and the private pay rate, so those that are slightly over and do not qualify cannot afford private pay. This can result in further cost to the County when we have wards that do not qualify for Special Assistance based on income and need to be placed. If not qualified, the County could have to pay the difference in their income and the private pay rate.*

*House Bill 752 - (Raise Personal Needs Allowance for SA Recipients in Facilities) - This bill did not make it past the House, but the House and Senate budget raised the personal care or special needs allowance from \$46 to \$70. This could be helpful for those that are just slightly over the income limit and increase our caseload slightly. The personal needs allowance is added to the rate, which is also the income limit, so this could push those to the limit that are just slightly over now. This would increase County cost about \$2,000 based on our current caseload.*

*House Bill 580/SB 636 (Raise Foster Care Rates) - These bills did not pass, but an increase in the Foster Care rates was included in the General Assembly's budget, and this is not expected to change. This could increase the County portion of Foster Care. As we have seen with the end of the 2018-19 budget, Foster Care costs can be unpredictable because it is dependent on the type of funds that children are eligible for as to which are used. It is a difficult call for the State and the County to estimate the cost in each of the funding streams.*

## Medicaid Transformation Update

*Mr. Carroll provided an update on Medicaid Transformation. He stated that management and staff continue to attend webinars, meetings, and reviewing resources in preparation for the transition from fee for service to managed care Medicaid.*

*Mr. Carroll shared that three pre-paid health plans in North Carolina - Aetna Better Health, a commercial health care company; Optima, a health care group part of Virginia Sentara Health; and My Health, a provider-led coalition; filed a lawsuit against the NC Division of Health and Human Services claiming that the selection process used to select PHPs to participate in NC Medicaid Managed Care was flawed. Last week, a NC Administrative Law Judge ruled in favor of the NC DHHS and denied a preliminary injunction request. The companies are expected to file appeals, but it is not likely that the transition will be delayed or interrupted.*

*Mr. Carroll shared updated information on how transformation will impact Medicaid Transportation. Each of the PHPs are required to have a Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) policy approved by DHHS. DSS will no longer determine eligibility or schedule appointments for those that move to managed care. PHPs can coordinate this themselves and provide the transportation, do their own contracts with providers, or work with a transportation broker. All of the PHPs are going with a broker. Three transportation brokers have been approved by DHB. Well Care - One Call United Health Care - National MedTrans AmeriHealth, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Carolina Complete Health - Logisticare.*

*Mr. Carroll had informed the Board that the enrollment broker, Maximus, had originally planned to have one support person one day per week on site during open enrollment. They have hired 34 additional staff and will now have one support person five days per week. During Phrase 1, which is in process now, some counties have more based on population. We are not sure how this will play out in Phrase 2 since there are more counties in Phrase 2. These on-site support positions are supposed to educate staff on Enrollment Broker activities and the web site and mobile app, and provide choice counseling for consumers.*

## House and Senate Compromised Budget (House Bill 966)

*Mr. Carroll shared with the Board some funding included in the House and Senate Budget presented to the Governor that will impact us at the County level. The budget was vetoed by the Governor so a final budget has not been approved.*

*Additional SSBG funds were included to increase and support Adult Protective Services workers at the local level. It is uncertain whether this funding will be given to Counties to support current positions.*

*The increase in the Special Needs Allowance for SA recipients in assisted living facilities and the temporary financial assistance to SA facilities, both discussed earlier during the discussion of legislative bills.*

*Food and Nutrition Services Outreach for Medicaid/Medicare Dual Eligible - Includes \$600,000 funding to increase access to FNS benefits for individuals who are dual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. This continues a pilot project that began in 2016. This will have no impact on the County budget.*

*Low Income Energy Assistance - Reduces service and administrative funds for Energy Assistance Programs (Crisis Intervention Program and Low Income Energy Assistance Program) due to reduced Federal funding. While these programs are funded totally by Federal dollars, it could impact available funds to assist consumers. However, for the past two years, Rutherford County has not spend the total funds available to the County.*

*Quality Assurance Positions - Provides funds for a 50% match to participating Counties to establish new quality assurance positions for Child Welfare at the local level.*

*Child Welfare Program Improvement - Provides funding to establish 11 new positions to increase the State's capacity to provide technical assistance and program monitoring of County Child Welfare Agencies.*

*Child Advocacy Centers - Provides increased funding for Child Advocacy Centers. This could enhance the services provided by our local child advocacy centers, resulting in enhanced Child Protective Services.*

## Staff Kudos

*Mr. King thanked Mrs. Hampton for her service on the Board.*

## X. Closed Session

*No Closed Session*

## XI. Announcements

*No Announcements*

## XII. Adjourn