

Rutherford County



Meeting Minutes - Draft - Outline

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

4:00 PM

289 N. Main Street Rutherfordton Commissioner's Chambers

Social Services Board

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairperson Barbara Thompson, Vice Chairperson Bryan King,
Member Joseph Maimone, Member Georgia Steele, and Member
David Herndon

II. Discussion and Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Member Georgia Steele, seconded by Member Joseph Maimone that the agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairperson Thompson, Vice Chairperson King, Member Maimone
and Member Steele

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Herndon

III. Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Maimone recommended clarifying the last sentence of the Personnel Report giving the percentage of decrease in comp hours referencing July 2015 as the benchmark date for this decrease.

A motion was made by Member Joseph Maimone, seconded by Member Georgia Steele that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairperson Thompson, Vice Chairperson King, Member Maimone
and Member Steele

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Herndon

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

V. Personnel Report

Mr. Carroll presented the Personnel Report stating since the last meeting, there have been two new hires, one in Children's Services and one in Economic Services; two Resignations (both in Children's Services); and no Terminations. Current vacancies include two Social Work III positions, with one offer pending and the other a selection made; Processing Assistant IV (Medicaid Transportation), this is being filled with a temporary worker until we see what is going to happen with Managed Care and how that will effect Medicaid Transportation and what that time line will look like. There was an increase in total comp time of 8% from December to January. For December, there was a significant decrease attributed primarily to time being taken off during the holidays. The highest increase was in Economic Services at 17%. Children's Services was at 3%. The increase in Economic Services, especially in Medicaid, is attributed to changes that make the work more complex, NC FAST system issues, new requirements from the Division of Health Benefits (DHB), and the many audits that the Agency is subjected to. Mr. Carroll mentioned that progress has been made in lowering individual balances.

[ID 20-2342](#) **Personnel Report - as of 2/9/2020**

Attachments: [Personnel Report - As of 2-9-2020](#)

VI. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Price discussed the budget items as presented in the agenda packet.

There were no questions.

[ID 20-2343](#) **Budget Discussion**

Attachments: [Budget Discussion - February 2020](#)

[ID 20-2344](#) **Financial Report - January 2020**

Attachments: [Financial Report - January 2020](#)

VII. Service Report

Mr. Carroll presented the Service Report. He noted that there was an increase in Child Care Services due to some families being moved from the waiting list. There had been a statewide freeze and was lifted by the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) in January. Based on their current rate of spending, the Partnership for Children of the Foothills (Smart Start) will have subsidy funding remaining at the end of the fiscal year. Their Board approved moving these additional funds to be used for vouchers so this will allow some additional movement from the waiting list. Smart Start uses some of their subsidy funds for vouchers and some for enhancements paid to the providers.

The Agency has exhausted LIEAP funds. A small reallocation was received and those that had applied last and unable to receive funds were sent letters to come in and reapply. CIP funds have also been exhausted.

[ID 20-2345](#) **Service Report - January 2020**

Attachments: [Report of Services - January 2020](#)

VIII. Appointment of Board Member to the CCPT/CFPT

Mrs. Thompson stated she is interested in this Committee and made the motion to appoint herself.

A motion was made by Chairperson Barbara Thompson, seconded by Member Georgia Steele that Mrs. Thompson be approved to be the new Board member on the CCPT/CFPT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairperson Thompson, Vice Chairperson King, Member Maimone and Member Steele

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Herndon

VIII. Program Updates:

1. Social Work

No Social Work updates.

2. Economic Services

Mrs. Bridges updated the Board on Economics Services.

[ID 20-2346](#) **State Budget Stalemate - Effect on NC FAST**

Attachments: [State Budget Stalemate - Effect on NC FAST](#)

[ID 20-2347](#) **Agency Medicaid Newsletter**

Attachments: [Agency Medicaid Newsletter](#)

[ID 20-2348](#) **Potential Medicaid Expansion - Effect on Medicaid Workload**

Attachments: [Potential Medicaid Expansion - Effect on Medicaid Workload](#)

Kandi notes

3. Director's Report

[ID 20-2349](#) **Director's Report - February 2020**

Attachments: [Director's Report - 02-2020](#)

ID 20-2350 Medicaid Transformation Update**Attachments:** [Medicaid Transformation Update](#)

Mr. Carroll stated that the State is continuing to work on several things related to Medicaid Managed Care during the suspension. One of these is Tailored Plans, which will serve those with significant mental health issues, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), as well as, physical health needs. Tailored Plans will not roll out until a year after the standard plans and those consumers identified for the Tailored Plans will remain fee for service until then. The first four year contracts will only be awarded to Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs) and this is explained in the Behavioral Health/IDD Pre-Release paper that is part of the agenda packet. Once a budget is approved, there will be many issues that must be dealt with to get Managed Care implemented. Managed Care cannot move forward without final budget approval and cannot operate under the continuing resolution budget that the State is under now. Without a budget, they do not have the authority to pay capitation payments, to use the transformation dollars in the budget, authorization to tax the Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs) or to get hospital assessments completed. The current budget (vetoed budget) has a \$42M cut for Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The move of the State offices to Granville County is also still on the table, and DHHS says that it cannot implement Managed Care because staff would have to move there. In addition to the Tailored Plans, they are also continuing to work on NEMT (Medicaid Transportation). Local DSS's received a survey requesting information about current rates paid to vendors and to consumers for transportation. From this, a spreadsheet was issued showing the low, high, and average rates for each region to help transportation brokers and PHP's negotiate a rate. Potential transportation providers have concerns because there are three different transportation brokers. This would require them to enter into three separate systems because different PHP's or medical providers will likely use different brokers or some may use more than one, resulting in an administrative nightmare for them. To head off this concern, Division of Health Benefits (DHBs) is looking at how to simplify this by possibly creating an interface that can be developed over the three systems. Providers are also concerned that brokers are going to come in with a low rate based on the information they will be provided. DHB plans to work with transportation brokers to help them understand the reasons for the different rates among regions and providers and hopefully educate them on why providers cannot operate without a sufficient rate. They believe that the average rate for the region is what will be needed. When the budget is approved and Managed Care begins again, DHHS/DHB will have to update all marketing materials, websites, smart phone apps, and technical systems such as enrollment broker's system, health plan systems, and NC TRACKS; resubmit the health plans policies and procedures for approval to CMS; re-do the capitation rates and submit for approval; test data systems and reevaluate DHHS and DHB's ability to roll out Managed Care; the PHP's will rehire staff that they had to let go, and DHHS will have to do the same; and information will have to be sent out to all consumers again and educate about the new system.

Proposed Legislative Bills

Mr. Carroll reported that there has not been any movement on any of the Bills followed on the Bill tracker. House Bill 1032, which was filed in January, purposes a scaled back expansion of Medicaid using no federal funding. Under this proposal, expansion would only include people up to 100% of the poverty level; whereas, the other proposal expands to 130% (full Medicaid Expansion). This proposal would save enough money so that no federal funds would be required and only use the same amount of money that NC would pay for full expansion. This was viewed at as a compromise because some opponents of expansion are afraid that the feds would pull back the dollars that they have promised for expansion costs. There has been no movement on this Bill. The General Assembly adjourned the next day and will not be back in session until April 28.

State Budget (HB 966)

NCCARES360

Mr. Carroll shared information regarding NCCARES360. This is a statewide electronic referral network or resource directory to connect people with needed resources. The purpose is to help address the non-medical drivers of health, like healthy food, affordable housing and jobs, which can lead to lower health care costs. Currently, there are so many different referral systems and people do not know where to go and do not have access to all resources. This is a joint effort between DHHS and several foundations. United Way and their 2-1-1 system are part of the implementation team. It is similar to 2-1-1, but much bigger. Much of the information locally will come from United Way. It includes a call center and a team to verify resources and maintain the directory and will have text and chat capability to send and receive information. NCCARES360 started in 2019 with some counties in the State and is on a schedule to be in all counties by the end of 2020. Rutherford County is in the group presently preparing for roll out. An information meeting was held two weeks ago at Forest City United Methodist Church in Forest City. A link included in the agenda packet provides additional information.

[ID 20-2351](#)

Federal Medicaid Block Grant Plan

Attachments:

[Federal Medicaid Block Grant Plan](#)

Mr. Carroll shared two articles, included in the agenda packet for information. 5 Things to Know About Trump's Medicaid Block Grant Plan and Trump Administration to Allow Medicaid Block Grants. He stated that there has been no indication whether NC will entertain this idea. This provides an optional waiver for adults under age 65 who do not qualify for Medicaid to become eligible. The articles talk about those covered by Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act, meaning those not eligible for Medicaid under the State plan, but a State does not have to be an expansion State. It is called the Healthy Opportunity Waiver. The waiver would have to be approved by CMS. Under this waiver, States would take part of their Medicaid funding in the form of a block grant to serve those adults 65 and under.

[ID 20-2352](#)**NC Child Support Mobile Website****Attachments:**[NC Child Support Mobile Website](#)

Mr. Carroll shared information about the new NC Child Support Services website launched on February 1, 2020. It is compatible with mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets. The website will offer the following new features that will be useful and convenient to Child Support consumers who choose to use them - Document Upload for the online application, Email My Caseworker, Manage My Personal Information, and an Anonymous Tip Form. They hope to add computer chat and different payment types such as Apple Pay. Currently, payment can only be made by credit card. A Dear County Director of Social Services letter was included in the agenda packet that offers additional information.

Staff Kudos

Kudos was given to the LINKS Program - SaySo Stong Able Youth Speaking Out sponsors complimenting our County on our program and how active our youth are in the program.

IX. Closed Session

No Closed Session

X. Announcements

No Announcements

XI. Adjourn

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

Aye: 4 - Chairperson Thompson, Vice Chairperson King, Member Maimone and Member Steele

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Herndon

Note