

Forsyth County Department of Social Services Minutes
April 29, 2009

The Call to Order was given at 8:06.

Present: Florence Corpening, Chair, Walter Marshall, Dave Plyler, Mike Wells, Sr., Joe Raymond, Brenda Evans, Gloria Woods, Ava Smith-Pegues
Absent: Claudette Weston

Information

There were no staff introductions or public comments.

The Miscellaneous Director's report informed that:

- Child Support Collections rose significantly from February to March
- the County Retirement Incentive so far has produced 1 DSS employee
- the county manager's office is considering making changes to the operation of First Line that may result in DSS absorbing current First Line staff

Consent

The March minutes were approved. Motion by Dave Plyler, second by Walter Marshall.

The Benchmark Report informed that:

- for Goal 1.1 the Court Improvement Project has not changed the data at this point
- Claudette Weston and Karen McNeil-Miller are co-chairing the Youth in Transition from Foster Care Committee to addresses issues around Goal 1.7. Rita Powell facilitated the foundational meeting on April 22. The meeting was attended by 20 community participants 15 DSS staff. The Committee will meet again on May 20.

Ms. Evans reported preliminary results of the federal CFSR audit which will show that the agency did not reach substantial conformity in 6 of 7 outcome areas. It was emphasized that the audit is a continuous improvement tool and not necessarily a reflection of objective practice quality. She gave an example of the agency "failing" an outcome area because a caseworker was unable to connect with the absent parent due to the parent's incarceration and due to the fact this same parent was in fact the perpetrator of child sexual abuse barred by the court from contact with this child. Ms. Corpening asked that a summary of the report be presented at next board meeting that documents the agency's improvement efforts.

Strategic

(1) The IT update reported:

- A 3-year contract is being developed with Beacon Analytics to develop programs for Family and Children's Medicaid, Adult Division, Work First, and Food and Nutrition
- The software programs will be web-supported
- County MIS should have minimal supporting roles for these programs

(2) The DSS Program Budget is \$10 million less than last year and is requesting 10 positions requiring no new money.

Action

The Board approved the Resolution in Support of SB 1088 Maintaining the NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative to Provide a Stronger Work Force for NC's Vulnerable Children. Motion by Walter Marshall, second by Dave Plyler.

The Board approved the reappointment of Dave Plyler. Motion by Mike Wells, second by Walter Marshall.

The meeting adjourned.