

**Forsyth County Department of Social Services
Board of Social Services Minutes
July 23, 2008**

(July minutes to be approved at the DSS Board's September 27, 2008 meeting)

8:37am Call to Order

In Attendance:

Florence Corpening, Claudette Weston, Dave Plyler, Mike Wells, Gloria Woods, Brenda Evans, Joe Raymond, Ava Smith-Pegues

Introductions

Kim Collie, Program Manager with TEAM Division, introduced new Income Maintenance staff and Teresa Rouse, Social Worker in Family & Children's Division introduced new staff.

Sarah Talley, Supervisor, Adult Division, gave special recognition to Shirley Gibbs and Susan Brooks Moore who were credited with saving the life of another In Home Aide while they were at training in Durham.

Ann Roberts, Supervisor, Adult Division, presented the 2007-8 Employees of the Quarter and Year, Holly Rogers, Tanya Craigman, Shantelle Williams and Paige Obriant.

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

The July board minutes were approved upon a motion by Mr. Wells and a second by Mr. Plyer.

The **Director's Miscellaneous Report** included drawing attention to:

- the July 7 *Journal* newspaper article entitled *Not Keeping Pace* regarding food stamp allotments.
- the Channel 14 news story by reporter Stephanie Stillwell regarding clients seeking assistance.
- A WSJ article about the county's Medicaid budget: Mr. Plyler and the board agreed to ask Joe Bartel (County Budget Director) to attend the September or October DSS Board meeting to discuss the Medicaid budget.

The board also requested that board materials be emailed to Board Members instead of being mailed in paper form.

The board then discussed a variety of issues around the need to improve DSS's ability to communicate the value of DS services to the entire community. As an example, Mr. Wells offered that the face of Adult Medicaid knocks on everybody's door regardless of economic status and suggested we present those and other stories to the public to inform about the economic savings impact of DSS on the community.

- Ms. Corpening offered information on the value of having a PR firm to assist with telling our stories to the community.

Mr. Wells also presented the question of how DSS is a practical player in using government to transition people to a better place whether holding steady and/or going to the next level. The Director and Mr. Wells agreed to meet and discuss ideas about how DSS might move forward in these regards.

The Director stated data for the last fiscal year will be reviewed via the benchmark report will be presented in greater detail in October. He did report that for the 2007-8 fiscal year that just missed their total collections target.

The director updated the board about the status of the agency's information technology planning. The possibility of using an outside vendor is being weighed against internal development for the agency's IT eligibility needs. Planning is also taking place regarding implementation of Buncombe child welfare system.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 27.