

BOARD MINUTES
NASH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
January 26, 2015

The Nash County Department of Social Services held its regular meeting on January 26, 2015 in the second floor Board Room of the Nash County Claude Mayo, Jr. Administration Building. Members present were Ms. Patricia Adams, Mr. Chris Battle, Ms. Dorothy Battle, Mr. Dan Davis, and Ms. Jeannette Pittman.

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the December 29, 2014 regular meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Ms. Adams and second by Mr. Battle

Old Business

None

New Business

Ms. Donna Boone took the oath of the Director of Social Services as administered by Rachel Joyner, Nash County Clerk of Court. Ms. Boone has 32 years' experience with the Department and most recently served as the Deputy Director for the past 5 years. She assumed this position January 1, 2015.

Ms. Stephanie Grischow, Foster Care Supervisor, presented an update on the December activities to serve the foster children. She reported that gifts were provided for 62 foster children and that \$4000.00 in donations were received to support the children throughout the year. In addition to gifts, the staff held a Christmas party where over 100 people attended. Ms. Grischow introduced Kennedy Brown, a teenager in the area who has collected gifts for foster children over the past 4 years. This year she targeted teens and collected 130 items. She was commended by the Board for her heart felt efforts to serve foster children.

Ms. Boone provided an update on development of the potential consolidation of Department of Social Services and Health Department. The Commissioners unanimously voted on January 12, 2015 to bring the subject for public hearing scheduled for March 2, 2015. The county contributes a significant amount of funds to each department's budget, yet has little authority over their management. The goal of consolidation would be to have each Department more accountable to county government as well as look to combine some functions in the future. They are most interested in the plan that would combine both boards into one Human Services Board.

Ms. Boone updated the Board on the hiring freeze status. The Department had 6 vacant positions and approval was given to fill 5 of those. The Deputy Director position is still on hold with plans to fill it in the near future.

Ms. Boone provided the board with copies of the Revenues/Expenditures and Services/Financials reports for the month of December 2014. It was noted that the Child Care Waiting List had declined as the Department has been able to serve more children. Ms. Boone reported concerns about policy changes that may impact non-parent caretakers from receiving child care assistance without fees. Until now, they were considered to not be financially responsible, but legislative changes may reverse that policy. We are waiting to see how they handle that issue and the impact for families in Nash County.

In accordance with N.C.G.S. 108A-80 and pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11, Ms. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Battle and passed unanimously to enter a closed session to consider suspected fraud cases.

Upon return to open session, and there being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Adams and second by Ms. Pittman, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Davis, Chairman

Donna Boone, Secretary