



**LINCOLN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Social Services Board was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Social Services Building. Members present were Chrystal Hoyle, Chairperson; Dr. Sherry Hoyle, Vice Chairperson; Jill Eaddy, and Daphne Ingram. Others in attendance were Matthew Hillman, Director; Kelley Miles, Deputy Director; Jason Hughes, Placement Services Program Manager; Tiffany Barnette, Medicaid Program Manager; Roni Duckworth, Economic Services Program Manager; and, Denise Dula, Economic Services Support Supervisor/Designated Clerk to the Social Services Board. In addition, Beth Durham, Community Outreach Caseworker and Tonya Fitch, Income Maintenance Caseworker, attended the meeting.

Call to Order-Chrystal Hoyle called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Invocation-Daphne Ingram gave invocation.

Adoption of the Agenda-Adoption of the Agenda was approved by motion from Dr. Sherry Hoyle, second by Jill Eaddy, with all members in favor.

Public Comment-No public comments were made.

Minutes-Minutes from the April 30, 2024 meeting were approved by motion from Dr. Sherry Hoyle, second by Daphne Ingram, with all members in favor.

Old Business-Kelley Miles gave a detailed overview of the Lincoln County Adult Protective Services Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). The purpose of the Adult Protective Services MDT is for members of the community to collaborate and work together to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of disabled adults. The first Adult Protective Services MDT meeting was held in May 2023. Since the first meeting, the team has developed a Mission and Vision Statement; established a structured agenda for MDT meetings; presented multiple Adult Protective Services cases to the team, and as a result, obtained feedback and resources to assist our adults; and, provided education to the team with an outline of the Adult Protective Services Unit. The Lincoln County Adult Protective Services MDT meets on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at Lincoln County Department of Social Services.

Board members thanked Ms. Miles and staff of Lincoln County DSS for their hard work and dedication in helping to establish the Adult Protective Services MDT.

New Business-Matthew Hillman noted May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month. Jason Hughes presented a slideshow giving an overview of activities done for foster families. A succulent themed event titled “Love Grows A Family” was held at Betty Ross Park on May 17, 2024 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Dinner was catered from Smoke Pit BBQ. Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church supplied childcare and served food. Other churches involved were Denver United Methodist and Grace Covenant Church. Michael Branson, a former foster parent, provided DJ services. Foster families played games, made succulent plant arrangements, danced, and enjoyed an evening of interacting with other families. There was a good turnout for the event. Mr. Hughes noted Lincoln County currently has 32 foster families. Recently, Vanessa Leon, Public Affairs Officer for Lincoln County Government, did interviews with Lincoln County foster parents. These interviews have been placed on the Lincoln County Government Facebook page.

Board members thanked Mr. Hughes and expressed gratitude to all foster care parents for what they do for children of Lincoln County.

Matthew Hillman stated May is also Eligibility and Administrative Professionals Appreciation Month. Impact stories were shared by staff members. Tonya Fitch, Income Maintenance Worker, noted several cases where daycare vouchers helped a low-income mother and father continue to work, and a single father who previously paid for daycare, and is now unable to private pay, maintain his household. Both families were very humble and appreciative of the services provided. Beth Durham, Community Outreach Caseworker, described how Medicaid Expansion had enabled a 48-year-old individual with a mass located on his kidney, have surgery that would have otherwise not been available. Medicaid Expansion also afforded a 60-year-old with extensive dental issues have their teeth removed. Also, grandparents raising their grandchildren unable to pay rent and living at the Hesed House for nine months, received help with rent deposit, furniture provided by Furnish the Future, and food and household items from Journey of Hope. The families were grateful for the help supplied to them. Roni Duckworth also noted seeing a former client in the grocery store and the client sharing how daycare services and FNS had helped her as a single parent in providing for her three children. The mother is very proud of her children and stated all three were college graduates.

Board members thanked all presenters and noted they would like to acknowledge each of the eligibility staff members for their hard work in serving the citizens of Lincoln County.

Matthew Hillman explained the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a written agreement between the Department of Health and Human Services and each county outlining performance expectations across social services programs. Currently the MOU is a two-year contract. The Director’s Association would like to move away from the two-year contract to a one-year contract to allow for more negotiation and to streamline policy changes and legislation. The County Manager and County Attorney have been made aware of the concerns with the MOU two-year contract. Advocacy is doing surveys to determine which counties are discussing not signing the MOU. Counties are being held harmless until January 2025 for not meeting MOU goals. Mr. Hillman stated he would keep the Board updated as more information is available.

Matthew Hillman expressed he recently attended the Director's Association Annual Meeting. The core of the meeting was insightful to the issues facing all counties. Directors were able to network and discuss strategies. Presentations included "Liability and Immunity" by Kristi Nickodem; "Clerks of Superior Court and Guardianship" by Judge Mixson; and "Aging by Way" by Mark Hensley.

Matthew Hillman stated the Social Services Institute will be held July 31, 2024-August 2, 2024 at the Hickory Metro Convention Center in Hickory, N. C. There will be workshops offered for Social Services Board members. Once the event schedule has been finalized, Board members will be notified.

Budget Reports-Matthew Hillman explained Ruth Lockman was out of the office today. Mr. Hillman discussed cost savings to the county and lap salaries. He asked if there were any questions regarding the budget reports, to please reach out. At this time, Board members stated they had no questions.

Statistical Reports-Matthew Hillman expressed statistical reports continue to look good. Mr. Hillman commended staff and stated he was pleased with the collective statistics.

Other-Matthew Hillman noted the purple ribbons the Board members have been given are for Elder Abuse/Older American Month in June 2024. Since Elder Abuse Day is on June 15, 2024 and before the next Board meeting, ribbons are supplied for Board members to wear on that day. There will be a presentation regarding older American's during the next Board meeting.

Closed Session-No closed session needed.

Date of Next Meeting-June 25, 2024

Motion to adjourn by Daphne Ingram, second by Jill Eaddy, with all members in favor.

This meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

At this time, Board members moved to the training room for Eligibility Specialist and Administrative Professionals Appreciation Month. Staff members were recognized, and refreshments were served.

Date Minutes Approved

Chrystal Hoyle, Chairperson

Matthew Hillman, Director

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise S. Dula

Economic Services Support Supervisor;

Designated Clerk to the Social Services Board of Lincoln County DSS

Cc: file copy