



**LINCOLN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Social Services Board was changed and held on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Social Services Building. The members present were Alex Patton, Chairperson; Daphne Ingram, Vice Chairperson; Dr. Sherry Hoyle; Jill Eaddy; and Mike Devine. Others in attendance were Matthew Hillman, Director; Kelley Miles, Deputy Director; Mendie Kelly, Children Services Program Manager; Jason Hughes, Placement Services Program Manager; Tiffany Barnette, Medicaid Program Manager; Roni Duckworth, Economic Services Program Manager; Jennifer Sigmon, Adult Services Program Manager; and, Denise Dula, Business Operations Supervisor/Designated Clerk to the Social Services Board.

Call to Order-Alex Patton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation-Alex Patton gave the invocation.

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

Public Comment-No public comments were made.

Minutes-Minutes from November 25, 2025 meeting was approved by motion from Dr. Sherry Hoyle, second by Daphne Ingram, with all members in favor.

Old Business- Matthew Hillman stated the Child and Family Specialty Plan (CFSP) went into effect on December 1, 2025. The CFSP is a single, statewide N. C. Medicaid Managed Care health plan designed to support beneficiaries in receiving integrated and coordinated health care they need, including mental health services, and continue to work with their doctors if placements move them across the state. Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolian was awarded the CFSP and is managed under Healthy Blue Care Together. Mr. Hillman noted with change comes issues. Counties have been faced with slower placement process difficulties than those encountered with Partners Health Management. As a result, emergency placement funds have been utilized that would not have been if all implementation issues had been resolved prior to the effective date of the new health plan. Also, case managers with Healthy Blue Care Together that have been on site have not had all the educational information needed and they have relied on our DSS staff for assistance in articulating the proper steps. Mr. Hillman expressed Medicaid Program Manager Tiffany Barnette and Placement Services Program Manager Jason Hughes have done a great job in addressing all issues and ensuring no lapse in coverage. It is important

to note, in North Carolina, a foster child remains in the CFSP while in foster care and can keep this coverage until age 26 if they aged out of care.

Matthew Hillman expressed on December 10, 2025, Governor Josh Stein directed the Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to restore Medicaid reimbursement rates to their September 30, 2025 levels. The rates had been cut on October 1, 2025 due to the General Assembly's not fully funding the program for the fiscal year. An example includes Medicaid recipient transportation systems such as Transportation of Lincoln County (TLC) were able to revert back and recoup revenue that had been cut short. Despite restoring the rates, there is still a \$319 million funding shortfall for Medicaid. Mr. Hillman stated one of the top priorities of the legislative advocacy group he is a member of is funding issues surrounding the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR1) and the outcomes on the local and state level.

New Business-Kelley Miles shared a power point picture of Jennifer Sigmon, Adult Services Program Manager who recently was recognized as 2025 Outstanding Employee for Lincoln County Government. Ms. Sigmon was honored for going above and beyond in service, teamwork, and dedication. Ms. Miles stated Ms. Sigmon has worked for Lincoln County DSS for 28 years and has extensive knowledge on critical senior services issues and a very strong commitment to the community's vulnerable populations. She has been instrumental in establishing the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) for Lincoln County DSS Adult Services. Neighboring counties have visited Lincoln County DSS to learn the structure of the Adult Services MDT and plan on modeling their MDT much the same. Board members congratulated Ms. Sigmon on her award and the attentiveness she displays in her job duties.

Kelley Miles presented a power point presentation reflecting Angel Tree 2025. Referrals for the angel tree were received from Children Services, Economic Services, and Adult Services starting in early September 2025 with gifts arriving the beginning of December 2025. There were 176 children in Children Services and Economic Services and 223 adults in Adult Services served through Angel Tree 2025. Ms. Miles acknowledged the kindness and compassion of the many sponsors and DSS staff members who helped make this event a success. Board members thanked Ms. Miles and expressed gratitude to all staff for their unwavering hard work and commitment to ensure the angel tree event is accomplished each year.

Matthew Hillman noted a copy of the yearly Board agenda for 2026 was included in the Board packets. The agenda lists items distinct to each month and is a great template of our Board minutes. The agenda also enables staff to know when they are doing a presentation to the Board. Board members stated the yearly Board Agenda looked excellent and would be utilized by everyone.

At this time, the proposed yearly Board Agenda for 2026 was approved by motion from Daphne Ingram, second by Jill Eaddy, with all members in favor.

Budget Reports-Matthew Hillman stated there was not a lot to add regarding budget reports. He expressed 2nd Quarter Projections Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2026-2027 will be presented during the Board meeting on January 27, 2026. Also, if Board members had any questions, please contact him anytime.

Statistical Reports-Matthew Hillman stated Lincoln County DSS statistical data continues to look great. He acknowledged Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Child Welfare Services Assessment Goal 1 was at 94 percent. He congratulated Children Services Program Manager Mendie Kelly and her team on bringing that percentage up from prior months.

Other-Dr. Sherry Hoyle expressed she would once again like to say what an honor it has been serving on the Lincoln County Social Services Board, and she greatly appreciates everyone.

Closed Session-No Closed Session needed.

Date of Next Meeting-Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

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

This meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Date Minutes Approved-January 27, 2026

Alex Patton

Alex Patton, Chairperson

Matthew Hillman

Matthew Hillman, Director

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise S. Dula

Denise S. Dula, Designated Clerk
Social Services Board

Cc: file copy