

April 22, 2025

The Alamance County Social Services Board met for its regular monthly meeting on this date. The meeting was held at HSC Building (1st Floor) 319 N. Graham Hopedale Rd., Burlington NC with the following in attendance were: Mr. Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair; Mrs. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair; Commissioner Ed Priola, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candy Snyder, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candice J. Gobble, DSS Director; Ms. Virginia Hunker, DSS Business Officer; Ms. Jamie Hamlett, DSS Attorney; Ms. Lynette Wellons, DSS Assistant Director of Services; Ms. Danae Pickard, Economic Services Division Director and Ms. Angela Cole, Child Welfare Supervisor were present.

Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair opened the meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda: Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair

March 2025 items on the consent agenda approved. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair made a motion to approve and seconded by Candy Snyder.

Staff Reports:

Fiscal: Virginia Hunker

	MARCH 2025	% OF BUDGET	PRIOR YTD	% OF BUDGET
REVENUES	\$9,307,316.00	75%	\$9,048,391.00	65%
EXPENDITURES	\$16,301,485.00	60%	\$14,616,262.00	56%

Ms. Hunker presented Alamance County DSS FY25 – 3rd Quarter Report. Ms. Hunker reported as of March 31, 2025, DSS is trending slightly below the target expenditures rate of 75%, indicating continued cost management efforts. Revenues are currently exceeding the target of 67%, reflecting stronger than expected income performance throughout the 3rd quarter. Staffing expenses are tracked just under the projected percentage, while operational costs remain below target as we conclude 3rd quarter and transition into the final quarter of the fiscal year.

Revenues	
Federal	\$7,590,571
State	\$ 903,929
County	\$812,815
Total	\$9,307,316

Expenditures	
Staffing	\$12,153,200
Operations	\$910,245
Services	\$3,238,040
Total	\$16,301,485

Department	Revenue	Expenditure	% Reimbursed
Economic Services	\$4,355,206	\$5,560,931	78%
Child Welfare	\$3,238,436	\$4,916,449	66%
Adult Services	\$660,669	\$1,818,566	36%

As of March 31, 2025, VAYA Funds Utilization is \$239,171.00. These funds are used to prevent disruption of placement for children to avoid the use of the “Blue Cottage”.

Fraud: See report –

Unit	March 2025	March 2024	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Fraud	\$22,380.95	\$24,939.21	\$254,191.39	\$183,386.48

Services – Ms. Lynette Wellons/Assistant Director of Services -

Child Support – (Statistical Report Information) – see report.

Unit	March 2025	March 2024	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Child Support	\$910,523.17	\$986,932.30	\$6,057,552.53	\$8,150,515.29

Assistant Director Lynette Wellons reported the following:

- Next Board Meeting – Foster Care Presentation
- We continue with Foster Care recruitment events

Economic Support: Ms. Danae Pickard

- Continue to watch legislation as it relates to Federal Medicaid Services

Operations – Director Candice J. Gobble

Administrative Support/Personnel: Candice Gobble

See Statistical Report – as of March 31, 2025

Vacancies	24
New Hires	3
Interagency Transfers	0
Resignations	2

Director Gobble reported we currently have 29 vacancies. We currently have 6 potential candidates in the hiring process, which will put us in over the 26 vacancies.

Director Gobble reported DSS Management and Leadership Team will attend all day training on “Interviewing” and finding the “Good Fit” for our department.

Question: Who is conducting the training?

- *Nicole Greer with Vibrant Coaching out of Concord NC.*

Question: What is the cost of training?

- *The total cost for all day training will be around \$6k. We budgeted \$10k for Leadership Training in our training line for fiscal year.*

Director’s Report – Candice J. Gobble, Director–

Director Gobble reported staff participated in the Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation at the last Commissioners Meeting.

Director Gobble also reported for Child Abuse Prevention month pinwheels were planted around the County to display awareness with the partnership of Guardian Ad Litem office. The pin wheels were planted at Alamance County Superior Court House, Petree Building and DSS campus.

Question: Where are we with DSS Budget request?

- *Director Gobble reported we have met with the County Manager and Budget Officer. We are revamping our Performance Management goals. We submitted goals around the mandated MOU goals we must meet at the State level.*

Question: Can you make the Budget Presentation available once received?

- *Yes – Director Gobble will send the final budget to all DSS Board members once approved. There is a process of County Budget timetable.*

New Business: Child Abuse Prevention Presentation

Mrs. Angela Cole, Child Welfare Program Manager presented the following: “Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention”.

The title represents a balance between emotional resilience and practical strategy; to face challenges with positivity and being wise enough to take steps to reduce future risk.

Mrs. Cole expressed DSS Vision for our customers and our community is to ensure they are supported in their needs BEFORE a challenge or challenges come their way, to prevent a crisis. And with this, we can create hope for the future.

Why does Supporting Families Matter?

Children have the right to be free from abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, 1 out of 7 children experience abuse or neglect in the US.

Access to Support and Services

- Emotional & Physical Well-Being Improves
- Creates stable relationships & nurturing environments
- Reduce childhood adversity

Working Together & Centering Families in Prevention -

Alamance County DSS is not in prevention alone, each person in the Community has their own level of responsibility to do this through the following:

- Build networks of community support & services
- Education for parents & caretakers
- Mandatory reporting training – WE are all mandated to report any concern of abuse or neglect to DSS. It does not have to be firsthand knowledge to report. As an agency, we do multiple report training courses throughout the year. We receive a significant number of reports, especially in comparison to other counties similar in size. This requires us to have 3 Child Welfare Intake Social Workers instead of (1 or 2) due to the volume of calls we receive.

Working Together – Everyone’s Role:

- Parents & Guardians
- *Teachers & School Staff – We receive the most reports from this community! We received 25% of reports last month from teachers. During the summer months, we receive more from Day Care.*
- Neighbors & Friends
- Healthcare Workers

How Can You Help:

Report - Please report any suspicion of child abuse & neglect. Know who to make reports to. You can call your local law enforcement agency if you suspect any crime against a child. The primary route is to report to Alamance County Social Services.

- **Contact Numbers are as follows:**
 - (336) 229-2908 - During business hours (8am – 5pm)
 - (336) 570-6777 - Afterhours (24/7/365)

Build Supportive Network – Please help families create a supportive network. One that models positive behaviors and can connect them with resources to help develop skills and address any underlying

Advocate – Please support organizations that provide services for children with prevention and intervention. Advocate for policies by contacting elected officials at any level and volunteer with organizations that advocate for child safety and well-being.

Raise Awareness – Please share information about child abuse prevention, resources, and the signs of abuse with friends, family and neighbors. Attend town halls & community forums about child welfare and invite others to attend.

2024 Data –

# of CPS Reports Received	2,608
# of CPS Reports Accepted	1,568
# of Children Assessed	3,136
Average # of Workers Available	8.3

We currently have 5 Social Workers currently in assessments. We have 19 FTE SW positions. We do have contract social work staff assisting in this unit. We had less than 50% of our assessment workforce available. We currently have 3 new staff in training. All child welfare staff are required to take Child Welfare Pre-Service Training (7 weeks) before they can touch a case.

In 2022 and 2023, we had 7.83% average to do the job.

Question: What number of staff should you have to assess?

- *The State recommends that each SW staff should not carry more than 10 cases per caseload.*

Mrs. Cole ended presentation with quote from C.S. Lewis – “Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work”.

Discussions ensued about the PATH NC – (Partnership for Technology Hub for NC) is a technology platform for NC Child Welfare staff that will support the efforts in promoting safety, permanency and well-being of children and families.

There are new child welfare policies that are being reviewed in April 2025 and scheduled to roll out by May 2025. PATH NC for Alamance County will roll out in November 2025 for In-Home and Assessments.

Assistant Director Wellons reported we have yet to see the new policies. We are aware there are some significant changes. There are two webinars scheduled for staff.

Director Gobble added we continue to wait on HB612 – this bill will affect Child Welfare if approved.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment -

The next board meeting is 12:00 noon **Tuesday, May 27, 2025**, at DSS – Professional Board Room located on the 1st Floor at 319 N. Graham Hopedale Rd., Burlington NC.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:49pm. Motion was made by Candy Snyder and seconded by Vice-Chair Tyronna Hooker.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carmen L. Morrow

Date Approved: _____