

February 24, 2026

The Alamance County Social Services Board met with 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; Ms. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair; Dr. Darrell Warner, DSS Board Member; 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. Danae Pickard, Economic Services Division Director; Ms. Lynette Wellons, Assistant Director of Services; Ms. Jamie Hamlett, DSS Attorney; Ms. Whitney Lipscomb, HR Manager; and Ms. Sherry Hook, Alamance County Assistant County Manager were present.

Mr. Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair, opened the meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda: Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair

January 2026 items on the consent agenda approved. Dr. Darrell Warner, DSS Board Member made the motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair.

Staff Reports:

Fiscal: Virginia Hunker

Expenditures – January 2026			
Year to Date through January 31, 2026	Expenditure Target Rate = 50%		
ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	Budget FY 25-26	Expenditures	Spending %
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 18,035,875.00	\$ 9,772,125.00	54%
OPERATIONS	\$ 1,927,898.00	\$ 933,445.00	48%
SERVICES	\$ 6,175,797.00	\$ 2,621,609.00	42%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 26,139,570.00	\$ 13,327,179.00	51%

Revenues – January 2026			
Year to Date through January 31, 2026	Revenue Target Rate = 50%		
ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	Budget FY 25-26	Expenditures	Spending %
FEDERAL	\$ 12,460,823.00	\$ 7,707,204.00	62%
STATE	\$ 1,397,026.00	\$ 843,438.00	60%
COUNTY	\$ 107,596.00	\$ 62,053.00	58%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 13,965,445.00	\$ 8,612,695.00	62%

Ms. Virginia Hunker reported DSS is trending low for expenditures and trending high for revenues. We continue to work with County Finance regarding the 26-27 Budget. We will meet with County Management and will present to DSS Board at March meeting.

Fraud: See report –

Unit	January 2026	January 2025	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Fraud	\$18,311.91	\$21,436.54	\$211,637.86	\$214,762.49
Fraud Referrals Received	14	14	171	109

Services: Lynette Wellons, Assistant Director of Services-

No report.

Please see dashboard highlights below:

Child Welfare -

- While no trends have been captured yet, with the integration of PATHNC there is a considerable increase in cases that are immediate and 24hr. response.
- March is the month of Social Work Appreciation month where we plan to celebrate the work done by all Social Workers at DSS.
- Continue challenges to fill social work vacancies. Through most recent job fairs with local universities, it is notable that most interest is geared towards the clinical piece of services, showing a continued challenge to recruit.
- Child Welfare continues to navigate ongoing challenges with BC/BS Healthy Blue serving our foster children.

Child Support – (Statistical Report Information) –

Unit	January 2026	January 2024	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Child Support Collections	\$856,623.70	\$897,705.62	\$6,268,037.49	\$6,338,716.28

Economic Support: Danae Pickard, Economic Services Division Director

Ms. Pickard reported the following:

- Energy season applications continue with LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program). We currently have funds until all are exhausted. The program runs until March 31, 2026. We are currently out of CIP funds. All Economic Services staff work diligently to help citizens with heating needs and complete these applications timely.
- NC Food & Nutrition program is placing an increasing emphasis on eligibility and benefit accuracy, ensuring households receive the correct benefit amounts and reducing payment errors rather than focusing solely on meeting timeliness targets. Both the State and Alamance County are trending in a positive direction with current percentages coming in at the State PER 7.01% and Alamance County DSS 5.62%.

Operations – Director Candice J. Gobble

Administrative Support/Personnel: Candice J. Gobble

Director Gobble introduced Ms. Whitney Lipscomb as the new DSS HR Manager. She is gearing up with training and learning DSS.

Ms. Gobble reported the following:

Metric	Current Month
Total Filled Positions	199
Total Vacancies	45
New Hires	6
Separations	2
Internal Transfers	1

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

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11(a)(1) – Director Gobble asked that the Board move into closed session citing the applicable provisions of law permitting confidential discussion of child protective services matters and attorney client privilege. Motion made by Ms. Candy Snyder, DSS Board member and seconded by Ms. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair at 12:25 pm. Motion carried.

During closed session, the Board received and reviewed a letter of complaint submitted by L.I. regarding an assessment of child protective services. Motion made by Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair and seconded by Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice Chair, to send a letter to L.I. indicating that her request had been received and considered by the board. The motion carried.

Action: Ms. Carmen Morrow will forward letter from DSS Board to L.I.

The Board reconvened in open session at 1:05pm with motion made by Ms. Candy Snyder and seconded by Commissioner Ed Priola to adjourn closed session.

Director Gobble provided the following updates:

- **VAYA funds** – We have been asked to provide a plan to VAYA about how DSS would spend the remaining funds. Director Gobble added she will add Adult Services in the plan as well along with Child Welfare. Director Gobble will provide all information to Rick Stevens, County Attorney, to send to VAYA.
- **Adult MDT Team** - Director Gobble reported she will add to upcoming Alamance County Commissioners meeting to present and request establishing a single county Adult Services Multi-Disciplinary Team. Following the decision, we will begin developing written procedures identifying required members and working toward formal appointments to the statutory MDT.

New Business: Strategic Plan Updates

Director Gobble gave brief overview of DSS Strategic Plan and current updates. Director Gobble presented the Strategic Plan spreadsheet where the following is tracked:

- Goals
- Start Date
- Action Steps

We are currently working through goals. We have distributed to all staff the first DSS newsletter “The Thread” which highlighted the following:

- Service Milestones
- Outreach Spotlight
- Director’s Corner
- TIC/TAC Recognitions
- Connecting, Sharing, Growing
- Coming up this Quarter
- Strategic Plan: What to Know
- Looking Ahead

This newsletter will be distributed quarterly to all staff and board members.

We have started the “Values in Action” recognition program. We have had our first winner of the “Employee of the Month” parking space. We received 12 nominations in the first round. Our first winner was Emerald Eanes, Child Welfare SW Supervisor. Ms. Eanes was selected by the

Nomination Committee. All nominees must demonstrate the core values of the strategic plan which are: **Compassion, Integrity, Respect, Adaptability and Dependability.**

The Booster's Committee held a 10-minute Valentine's Day event for all staff with doughnuts.

We continue with CQI efforts as a part of the Strategic Plan.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment -

The next board meeting is 12:00 pm **Tuesday, March 24, 2026,** 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 1:10pm. Motion was made by Commissioners Ed Priola, DSS Board Member, and seconded by Ms. Candy Snyder, DSS Board Member, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carmen L. Morrow

Date Approved: _____