

June 24, 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: Mrs. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair; Commissioner Ed Priola, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candy Snyder, DSS Board Member; Dr. Darrell Warner, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candice J. Gobble, DSS Director; Ms. Virginia Hunker, DSS Business Officer; Ms. Danae Pickard, Economic Services Division Director; Ms. Heidi York, Alamance County Manager and Mr. Scott Hunsaker, Adult Services Supervisor were present.

Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair, opened the meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda: Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair

May 2025 items on the consent agenda approved. Candy Snyder, DSS Board Member, made a motion to approve and seconded by Dr. Darrell Warner, DSS Board Member.

Staff Reports:

Fiscal: Virginia Hunker

	MAY 2025	% OF BUDGET	PRIOR YTD	% OF BUDGET
REVENUES	\$12,724,529.00	102%	\$10,366,622.00	91%
EXPENDITURES	\$20,303,005.00	75%	\$19,367,772.00	76%

Ms. Hunker reported there were no additional changes to the DSS Budget. This is the last month before the year end. We will not receive year end revenues and expenditures possibility until August 2025.

Fraud: See report –

Unit	May 2025	May 2024	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Fraud	\$21,567.89	\$186,288.79	\$291,046.48	\$397,335.02

Services – Director Candice J. Gobble -

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

Unit	May 2025	May 2024	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Child Support	\$941,551.16	\$988,662.81	\$9,941,776.68	\$10,152,144.80

Director Gobble reported that DSS have completed 30 adoptions this fiscal year with one social worker working on these cases. This is a huge accomplishment.

Director Gobble reported this month the “Billboard” campaign continues and will feature Foster Home Licensing. This month we had 11 families who were interested in becoming foster parents. We continue recruitment efforts for families.

Economic Support: Ms. Danae Pickard

Ms. Pickard reported the following:

The month of July starts the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) will start for cooling needs. We have not received any funding yet. Once we receive it, the funding goes very fast. Last year, we received over 8,000 applications whereas we had to include all Economic Services staff including the part-time staff due to stay on task so applications would not go overdue.

With proposed cuts to SNAP Benefits, North Carolina could pay up to \$700 million to continue current benefits. Four in five families participating in SNAP have either a child, a senior or an adult with a disability in the household.

The State has three proposals they could potentially follow:

1. Pay the cost of \$146 million, if they must meet the 5% State match
2. Reduce the allocation amount (Elderly client receives \$23 could potentially cut to \$13)
3. Withdraw SNAP benefits completely for the State of NC

For Medicaid proposed cuts, we know the bill is to increase program integrity (Fraud) policy. We are aware it would impact 400,000 Medicaid recipients.

Question: How would the 400,000 recipients be impacted?

- *We know that 40,000 veterans would be impacted. The cases would depend on the income levels and eligibility of cases.*

Operations – Director Candice J. Gobble

Administrative Support/Personnel: Robert Ring

See Statistical Report – as of May 31, 2025

Vacancies	28
New Hires	3
Interagency Transfers	1
Resignations	7

Mr. Ring reported as of June 25, 2025; we currently have 27 vacancies.

Question: Are the majority of vacancies Social Workers?

- *Yes – 16 of these vacancies are Child Welfare Social Workers.*

Mr. Ring reported that Adult Services and Child Support units are fully staffed. Currently, we have 8 vacancies in Economic Services. Economic Services make up the most staff at DSS of 114 positions.

Director Gobble reported we are incorporating phone interviews in our interview process effective July 2025. We are also incorporating new conversation portion of the interview process.

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

Director Gobble reported the Child & Family Services Review with Children's Bureau has been concluded. This review was conducted for safety, permanency and well-being for children in NC. There were 65 cases selected for the State of NC – none were from Alamance County. The plan is due on July 9, 2025. The State has requested an extension. Alamance County was given the opportunity to give feedback on this plan. The plan covers the following areas:

1. Region 3 – (Alamance County DSS is a part of region 3)
2. Region 7
3. Wake County

We will work with the State once the plan has been approved.

Director Gobble announced PATH NC is now living in Forsyth County DSS. This new process is only for Intake and Assessments ONLY. Alamance County DSS continues to receive training. We are on target to go live in November 2025.

Question: Have they worked out all the “bugs”?

- *They continue to work on issues within the system. They are listening to feedback from counties from social workers in the field.*

We have been informed about IT issues that could affect workers regarding clients who need email addresses, etc., and need to be able to sign forms and print forms while in the field. We are in the last phase.

Director Gobble reported we have added some interview strategies in our internal interview process. We have added phone interviews – “cold calls” to potential candidates to gauge their interest before scheduling full interview. We have also strengthened our social media efforts. We

are adding “Highlights” from current staff to provide feedback about working for Alamance County DSS.

New Business: Adult Protective Services

Director Gobble introduced Mr. Scott Hunsaker, Adult Services Supervisor. Mr. Hunsaker announced to board members that he is presenting on APS Services due to Kailee Morrow, APS Supervisor, who is currently in training for Elder Abuse. Mr. Hunsaker distributed Elder Abuse pins to celebrate Elder Abuse Awareness month.

APS Team:

- Kailee Morrow – APS Supervisor
- Aniya Graham – APS SW
- Nathaniel Gunter – APS SW
- Jessica Hodge – APS SW
- Reshawn Joe – APS SW
- Keisha McNeil – APS SW
- Nia Brown – APS Treatment SW and Guardianship Stabilization
- Sentrell Allen-Bird – APS Treatment SW and Guardianship Stabilization

Did you know?

- Every year an estimated 5 million individuals, or 1 in 10 older Americans, are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as 24 cases go unreported.
- During FY 2024 – 2025, Alamance County DSS received 938 reports of suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Of that number, 649 (69%) were screened in for evaluation as of May 2025.

Basic Principles of APS:

- The right to self-determination
- To treat the adult with honesty, caring and respect
- To pursue the least restrictive alternative, whenever possible
- Giving the highest priority to the family when appropriate
- Inadequate or Inappropriate intervention can be more harmful than none
- Protective of the disabled adult is a shared community responsibility
- The emphasis of APS is the need for protection not investigation
- Confidentiality and Privacy will always be respected

APS Criteria:

- Is the adult alleged to be disabled?
- Is the adult alleged to being abused, neglected or exploited?
- Is the adult alleged to need protective services?

If all three criteria are not alleged, then the report is screened out. There are times when an APS report is screened out for evaluation, but outreach is assigned.

Question: All three must meet criteria – not one out of 3?

- *Yes – all three must meet criteria to meet APS evaluation criteria.*

Evaluating the APS:

- Based upon the allegations, the evaluation will be initiated.
- Immediate – within 24 hours or within 72 hours depending on the severity of the allegations of the report.
- During the evaluation, the District Attorney and local law enforcement are notified
- Based upon the allegations, the evaluation must be completed within 30 to 45 days to complete the evaluation, depending upon the allegations that were provided in the report.
- The evaluation assesses six functional areas:
 - Physical health
 - Mental health
 - Social Support
 - Activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living (ADL and IADL)
 - Financial support
 - Physical environment
- The adult will be seen by the SW as many times as necessary and at least once in private

Signs for Physical/Verbal Abuse:

- Unexplained bruises, burns or cuts
- Unexplained broken bones or injuries that happen over and over
- Aversions to seeing a doctor for injuries
- Withdrawn or frightened behavior
- Appearing fearful of caregiver/other household members
- Continuously apologizing for no reason
- Unnecessary isolation of adults from friends or activities

APS Data:

Alamance County DSS received 108 more reports this year vs. last year

66 cases were abuse cases (only)

- Roughly 50% of these cases were substantiated
- It took approximately 28 days to provide protection for these individuals (if needed for immediate protection, we will take the case to court)

Majority of the abuse cases:

- Reside in the community
- Only 3 of these cases resided in a facility of some type

How are we fighting Elder Abuse?

Alamance County has a Multidisciplinary (MDT) team that meets once a month to discuss shared cases and how we can assist in ensuring those individuals are best served.

The Alamance County MDT team consists of 12 community partners:

1. Detective Jennifer Ashworth – Burlington PD
2. Lieutenant Jason Cannady – Alamance Co. Sheriff's Office
3. Celeste Cornelius – Community Member
4. Corey Ellison – VAYA
5. Latawnya Hall – Elder Justice Coordinator – Family Justice Center
6. Sharon Kurt – Assistant District Attorney – Alamance County
7. Kailee Morrow – Alamance Co. DSS Adult Protective Services Supervisor
8. Sargeant Joey England – Alamance Co. Sheriff's Office
9. Allison Young – Legal Aid
10. Tracy McKinney – Eldercare
11. Thomas Mowbray – Alamance County Sheriff's Office
12. Candice Gobble, Director – Alamance County Social Services

Director Gobble added progress is being made across the state of NC for counties to establish MDT teams to collaboratively help and support adults in the community who may need protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The School of Government has created a course to help counties create MDT teams.

Alamance County also has an Elder Justice Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Committee who meets monthly to work on educating the community of abuse in older adults.

- Alamance County received the Elder Justice Grant with the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
 - The Committee has completed several trainings in New Orleans and St. Louis. They will complete the last part of the Elder Justice Training in June 2025.
 - The Committee will be responsible for training all Law Enforcement agencies in Alamance County on how to identify abuse in older adults.

Reporting:

Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult needs protective services can report the following ways:

- The report can be made in person or in writing (we do have an online report created last year on DSS website) at 319 N. Graham Hopedale Rd., Burlington NC
- Please contact (336) 229-2908 (Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm)
- Please contact (336) 570-6777 (Afterhours, weekends and holidays at C-Com)

World Elder Abuse Day:

Please wear your purple ribbons for the World Elder Abuse Day held on Wednesday, June 16, 2025.

Question: What's the biggest challenge your unit is facing?

- *Adult Services units are fully staffed. This is the most stable APS Unit has been in years due to supervision of Ms. Kailee Morrow. Adult Services Program Manager, LaPorscha McCullough loves to state we have trained the community very well in how to make reports. We will continue to educate to protect the most vulnerable population.*

Director Gobble added we receive reports on younger individuals with MH/SA issues that require more attention.

We continue to meet the challenges of 141 persons under guardianship – 30% are under the age of 60. We have these persons under guardianship until death or competency has been restored.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment -

The next board meeting is 12:00 noon **Tuesday, July 22, 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 Dr. Darrell Warner and seconded by Candy Snyder.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carmen L. Morrow

Date Approved: _____