

September 23, 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; Dr. Darrell Warner, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candy Snyder, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candice J. Gobble, DSS Director; Ms. Virginia Hunker, DSS Business Officer; Mr. Robert Ring, HR Director; Ms. Lynette Wellons, Assistant Director of Services; Ms. Danae Pickard, Economic Services Division Director; Ms. Sherry Hook, Alamance County Assistant County Manager; and Ms. Heidi York, Alamance County Manager; were present.

Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair opened the meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda: Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair

August 2025 items on the consent agenda approved. Dr. Darrell Warner made a motion to approve and seconded by Ms. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Vice-Chair Board Member.

Staff Reports:

Fiscal: Virginia Hunker

	AUGUST 2025	% OF BUDGET	PRIOR YTD	% OF BUDGET
REVENUES	\$1,391,152.00	10%	\$1,152,813.00	9%
EXPENDITURES	\$3,494,044.00	13%	\$3,317,212.00	14%

Ms. Virginia Hunker discussed August Expenditures and Revenues. Ms. Hunker reported Alamance County DSS received an increase in funding authorization for Emergency Placement Funds received from NCDHHS in the amount of \$12,548.00 for FY26.

These funds are to assist county departments of social services in meeting immediate placement needs for children in DSS custody who are awaiting Medicaid-leveled treatment placements. These funds serve to bridge the gap in care by providing support while a suitable treatment facility is secured. The funds are specifically intended to prevent children from remaining in DSS offices by covering temporary placement related costs during this interim period.

The Emergency Placement Fund is an existing budget line but will require County Commissioner approval to amend the current budget to reflect the additional allocation. The amendment is scheduled for October 6, 2025, Commissioner meeting.

Fraud: See report –

Unit	August 2025	August 2024	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Fraud	\$43,587.11	\$52,772.32	\$62,897.11	\$121,485.88

Services: Lynette Wellons, Assistant Director of Services-

No report.

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

Unit	August 2025	August 2024	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Child Support	\$856,673.61	\$868,398.53	\$1,814,109.70	\$1,786,616.60

Economic Support: Danae Pickard, Economic Services Division Director

Ms. Pickard reported the following:

- We continue to interview for IMC II positions. We currently have 7 candidates in the hiring process – 5 of those 7 have start dates with DSS. We are very close to being fully staffed.
- We recently participated in State Meeting regarding USDA Food & Nutrition Services payment error as it relates to State of NC. The State is currently at 10.21% and should sit below 6% to stay within compliance of federal guidelines.
- The State is meeting with counties to see what is needed to support all county DSS. Alamance County DSS focus is to get the work done within the timeliness standards but will begin to shift the focus to quality of work as well. We look forward to State guidance.
- We will continue to participate in several audits over the next couple of months. There are four: REDA, PERM, Single Audit and Quarterly Audit.

Question: Are all the audits cost effective?

We often don't receive results or feedback from these audits. If there are any findings – they are consistent with larger and smaller counties. Alamance Co. DSS is considered a medium-sized county as it relates to population. We have a strong training team in Economic Services under the supervision of Katrina Jackson. They consistently revamp training based on data driven results as well as new policies. We recently added a more “hands-on” training with a mentoring phase model for those staff who may need more one-on-one training.

For Medicaid, the quarterly audit is based on 100 cases from each county. There is never any feedback, other than policy changes. The policy changes that do occur are never placed in updated policy manual.

Operations – Director Candice J. Gobble

Administrative Support/Personnel: Robert Ring

See Statistical Report – as of August 31, 2025

Vacancies	28
New Hires	3
Interagency Transfers	1
Resignations	3

Mr. Ring reported as of September 23, 2025 - we currently have 26 vacancies. Once all Economic Services positions are filled, DSS will finally be back in the teens as it relates to vacancies.

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

Director Gobble reported as mentioned last meeting North Carolina lawmakers passed a stopgap spending plan also known as a "mini budget" signed by Governor Josh Stein. \$600 million was included to support both the Medicaid rebase and the Medicaid Oversight Fund, however, this appropriation equates to a shortfall of \$319 million for the Medicaid rebase. This shortfall in the state budget and changes to Medicaid policy will mean the state will reduce rates by 3% for all medical providers, as well as cuts of 8% to 10% for inpatient and residential services. All these cuts are effective October 1, 2025. Currently, we have not heard of any cuts to Medicaid Expansion yet.

Director Gobble reported there could be significant changes to (ABAWD) – Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents work requirements.

- ABAWDS must now work at least 80 hours per month, pursue education or be in a training program to continue receiving benefits.
- There will be exemption changes to previously exempt groups, such as veterans and individuals experiencing homelessness, now must meet work requirements.
- The States has until November 1, 2025, to fully implement these changes. And States can no longer waive work requirements in areas with high unemployment rates unless the unemployment rate exceeds 10%.

Despite these challenges, the mission of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services remains unchanged – we will continue to work to improve the health and well-being of all North Carolinians.

Director Gobble gave recognition to Robert Ring, HR Director who will retire at the end of the month. Director Gobble presented a certificate of recognition that highlighted 10 years of outstanding service and dedicated leadership from January 2015 – September 2025.

Timothy Britt, DSS Board Chair, thanked Bob Ring for his years of dedicated service and wished him well in retirement from DSS Board.

New Business: Child Care Waiting List Policy

Ms. Danae Pickard presented Alamance County DSS Child Care Waiting List policy.

The waiting list policy is designed to ensure that families with children in need of care are prioritized based on the availability of funding. When funding is not available, childcare provider availability is not sufficient, or the Department of Social Services lacks sufficient staff to process all requests. The waiting list is never ideal but essential.

The policy will require DSS Board approval. Ms. Pickard stated to DSS Board that the “Approved” stamp at the top of the policy handout is the State Approved stamp.

Here are the following procedures that take place:

1. Eligibility criteria are explained to determine if the customer would be eligible for child day care services.
2. If the customer requests to be placed on the waiting list, their name, address, date of request, time of request and other demographic details for all children needing care, need for care and number of weekly hours if employed are entered on a waiting list form and forwarded to Child Care Unit. The family is registered into NCFast, if not registered, the children are added to the waiting list in NCFast.
3. Alamance County DSS will send a waiting list survey twice per year (March and September) to all families who have been active on the waiting list for at least 30 days. Parents will have 30 calendar days to complete the survey and return to DSS. If the survey is not returned, the family will be removed from the waiting list.
4. Children with special needs, and children whose application for assistance indicate that the child and the child’s family are experiencing homelessness or in a temporary living situation will be served immediately, unless the department has exceeded the 4% funds set aside. Alamance County DSS will set aside no more than 4% of the Non-Smart State Child Care subsidy allocation to serve vulnerable populations. Once funds are exceeded, these children will be placed on the Alamance County DSS waiting list and will be served according to ongoing waiting list policy.
5. If childcare cases are in jeopardy of termination due to the potential lack of funding. Alamance County DSS will contact DCDEE for guidance.

When the budget allows us to start serving the children on the waiting list, priority is given to:

1. Siblings of children already receive an active childcare assistance case.
2. Children with special needs
3. Families experiencing homelessness

4. Families who need childcare to support Child Protective Services (CPS)
5. Children who need childcare are in DSS custody in all need categories
6. Families who need childcare to support Child Welfare services for families in crisis
7. Teen parents who need childcare to remain in high school will have priority over working families and other families needing care to support education
8. Children enrolled in Head Start whose parents need childcare for wrap-around services to support and maintain employment
9. Families needing childcare to support Work First Employment or training will be given priority over other families needing childcare to support employment or training who are not in a higher priority group
10. Families who need childcare to support employment and/or education/training will be given priority over families needing childcare due to developmental needs *(The majority of DSS cases fall under this section)*
11. Children needing childcare assistance due to their developmental needs will be served after the above-mentioned groups have been served. *(The majority of DSS cases fall under this section)*

Question: Will the Big Beautiful Bill impact eligibility?

There are no changes to the Child Care policy within the Big Beautiful Bill. This is not an entitlement program. Child Care receives a set allocation every fiscal year. The coefficient must remain below 100% - Alamance Co. DSS normally stays at around 92% - 93%. We partner with Alamance Partnership for Children in relation to Smart Start funds. Alamance Co. DSS funds were reduced this fiscal year.

Action: Motion made by Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Vice-Chair, seconded by Candy Snyder, DSS Board member. Unanimous decision to approve the Alamance County DSS Child Care Wait List policy.

Announcements:

Heidi York, Alamance County Manager introduced Sherry Hook, Alamance County Assistant County Manager, to DSS Board Members. Ms. York reported that Ms. Hook will attend DSS Board Meetings going forward.

Ms. York also announced the potential consolidation of Alamance County Health Department, Family Justice Center and Veterans Services as a consolidated Human Services Agency. This consolidation does include Social Services.

Ms. York informed DSS Board members that BOCC must create a CHS board nominating committee that includes members from board of health, board of social services and Vaya board. A member from this board will be invited to participate.

Adjournment -

The next board meeting is 12:00 noon **Tuesday, October 28, 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 12:34pm. Motion was made by Candy Snyder and seconded by Commissioner Ed Priola to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carmen L. Morrow

Date Approved: _____