

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – November 20, 2023**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the Commissioners Board Room, 69 N Main Street, Marion, NC.

Members Present

Tony Brown, Chairman; David Walker, Vice-Chairman; Chris Allison; Lynn Greene

Members Absent

Patrick Ellis

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Charity Turner-Coates, Clerk to the Board; Bobbie Sigmon, Director of McDowell DSS; Ann Lee, Human Resource Director

Call to Order

Chairman Tony Brown called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

A. DSS Data Report

Chairman Brown recognized McDowell County Department of Social Services Director, Mrs. Bobbie Sigmon, who updated the Board on the month of October 2023 agency data. A copy of the reports was attached to the meeting agenda.

Mrs. Sigmon reported an increase in the screened-in CPS reports and informed the Board of changes coming in the General Statutes. The changes are expected to come around April or May of 2024. She also shared with the Board that she had met with the Principals and Administration of the McDowell County School System in an attempt to build relationships.

The foster care unit is maintaining steady numbers. There are currently 106 children in foster care.

There are currently 52 Cap cases, 40 SA in-home cases, and 50 guardianship cases in the adult care unit.

Child Support is slowly gaining and moving closer to the state goals. The changes made by the state and federal government will directly affect the child support numbers, as Medicaid recipients no longer are required to cooperate with child support.

The food and nutrition application number for the month was 383, this number has doubled in the past 4 months.

Mrs. Sigmon updated the Commissioners on other activities happening at DSS, such as the foster care parent appreciation dinner and the holiday activities.

At approximately 11:54 am, Vice Chairman Walker arrived at the meeting.

Mrs. Sigmon shared her concerns again with the Board, in reference to Senate Bill 625.

Discussion followed about how this Bill would result in more children in the foster care system who have mental health needs and not receiving the correct treatment.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to draft a resolution in opposition to Senate Bill 625 and for it to be sent to Senator Warren Daniels, Representative of the House and to the Association of County Commissioners, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 4 to 0, the motion passed.

Mrs. Sigmon informed the Board of the challenges McDowell DSS is facing at this time with a shortage of staff in the Medicaid unit and this has resulted in large caseloads, an average of 700 cases per staff. After discussions, the Commissioners asked for information on the surrounding county's salary for this specific job to be provided at the next meeting.

B. Sherriff Data Reduction

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Wooten.

The Sheriff is requesting a mandated redaction of all personal information of law enforcement from the GIS system. Discussions followed. At this time the only county identified as redacting this information is Catawba County.

Vice_Chairman Walker made a motion to reject the request and it was seconded by Commissioner Greene. Chairman Brown was opposed to the motion. By a vote of 3 to 1, the motion passed

C. Closed Session

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to enter into a Closed Session, per NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6), and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 4 to 0, the motion passed.

The board entered into a Closed Session at 12:20 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greene to come out of the Closed Session and seconded by Commissioner Allison at 1:05. By a vote of 4 to 0, the motion passed.

D. Adjourn

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Walker to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Allison and by a vote of 4 to 0, the motion passed.