

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – October 16, 2023**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in the Regular Session on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the McDowell Department of Social Services Conference Room, 145 E. Court Street, Marion, NC 28752.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Vice Chairman; Chris Allison, Lynn Greene

Members Absent

Chairman Tony Brown; Patrick Ellis

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Charity Turner-Coates, Clerk to the Board; Bobbie Sigmon, DSS Director; Lakeshia Feaster, DSS Supervisor

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

DSS Data Report

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

The Board was updated on the SPARK Program, which is a grant-funded program that provides intensive in-home therapy. Rutherford County is currently using the program and has reported successful outcomes.

Director Sigmon explained that the Department is gearing up for winter, as cold weather will be approaching.

Other topics discussed included the Adult Daycare that will be opening soon on Airport Road, which will help elderly residents who need additional resources during the daytime hours.

Medicaid expansion will begin December 1, 2023. The Department is estimating between two and four thousand new recipients will qualify under the new expansion.

Child and Fatality Protection Team Appointments

Director Sigmon presented the names of Shanon Smith with the McDowell County Sherriff's Department as representative from law enforcement, and Brian Mahaffey as a representative from Medical Services for the Child and Fatality Protection Team.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to accept the recommendations for the Child and Fatality Protection Team and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3 to 0, the motion passed.

The Board was reminded the Fatality Team also needs a Board member as a representative. The Board will discuss this at the next meeting. Commissioner Allison did express interest.

Home Study Fee Second Reading

This is the second reading for the Some Study Fee. Director Sigmon briefed the Board on the proposed fees:

Pre- Placement Assessment for a child that is not in McDowell County custody- \$1000.00

The court ordered a home study from another state or a civil matter (not ICPC)- \$400.00

Update to Pre-Placement Assessment - \$500.00

Update to Home Study already completed - \$250.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Greene to accept the Home Study Fee and was seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3 to 0, the motion passed.

Position Reclassification Proposal

Director Sigmon requested the Board to reclassify the current Quality Assurance Controller (Grade 68) to Program Manager for Economic Services (Grade 73). This would be a pay increase for the position, however, after speaking with Haley Burwell, this change could change the reimbursement rate from 45-50% to 50-75%. When the position was changed to a program manager and put into the budget program, the County dollar went down by \$9,000 for the year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greene to reclassify the current position and was seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3 to 0, the motion passed.

APS and CPS Christmas/Halloween at DSS

The Board was updated on some upcoming holiday events that will be taking place.

McDowell DSS will be opening the office to some daycares, children who are in foster care, and other children to trick or treat for Halloween.

Adult Protective Services is currently taking donations of snack foods, particularly Little Debbie honey buns, socks, hats, gloves, combs, and other items to ensure the elderly population who

are currently receiving services from McDowell DSS will have Christmas. Donations will be accepted up until November 22, 2023.

The Child Protective Services Unit is also working to provide Christmas for every child who is currently involved in the foster care system. Every child (all ages) has created a wish list. No items on the list should cost over \$50.00. You can pick up your Christmas Star at McDowell County DSS.

The Board expressed appreciation to all the Department of Social Services staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greene to enter into a closed session as permitted by NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(6) at 12:15 p.m. to discuss employee matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allison and by a vote of 3 to 0, the motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greene to return to regular session at 1:03 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3 to 0, the motion passed.

Recess

A motion was made by Commissioner Allison to recess the meeting until October 23, 2023, at 5 p.m. at 1:04 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 3 to 0, the motion passed.

Attest:

Charity Turner-Coates
Clerk to the Board

David N. Walker
Vice Chairman