

**Wake County Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2018**

Board Members Present:

Deborah Lawson
John Myhre
Margaret Raynor
Dr. James Smith, III
Dr. John Perry
Dr. Patrice O'Connell
Angie Welsh
Commissioner James West
McKinley Wooten
Dr. Randy Marsh

Staff Members Present:

Regina Petteway
Ken Murphy
Linda Bauer
Paige Rosemond
Debra Baker
Josephine Rutledge
Dr. Joseph Threadcraft
Dr. Kim McDonald
Heather Miranda
Craig Burrus
Dr. Theresa Flynn
Elizabeth Scott

Guests Present:

Mayor Frank Eagles

Call to Order

Chair Dr. James Smith called the meeting to order at 7:33am.

Reflections

Mr. McKinley Wooten spoke about the recent elections and the amount of time, attention and money spent reminding us of how divided we are and how we are more alike. He spoke about the fact that the takeaway for him is that his words matter. He said it is important for us all to think this way and he spoke about Dr. Flynn's upcoming Child Fatality Report presentation. He spoke about the number of youth suicides listed in the report and that it leaves parents wondering what they said or did and it leaves the friends of these children asking themselves what their last words were to them. One of the things he noted is that it is important to remember our connectedness to each other and that our words matter. He then read a piece from a book by Frederick Buechner called the Hungering Dark.

Chairs Privilege

Chair Dr. James Smith asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the California wildfires. He then reminded Board members that due to the Christmas holiday the December Board meeting would be a week early, held on December 20th.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the October 25, 2018 meeting minutes. Dr. Randy Marsh motioned and was seconded by Dr. John Perry. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Next Board Meeting – December 20, 2018

Human Services Board Officers Oath of Office

(Presented Mr. Kenneth Murphy)

Mr. Kenneth Murphy administered the Oath of Office to:

Chair Dr. James Smith, III,
Vice Chair Ms. Angie Welsh
Treasurer Ms. Margaret Raynor

Photos were then taken of the 2018-2019 Board Officers.

Human Services Board New Member Oath of Office

(Presented by Dr. James Smith and Mr. Kenneth Murphy)

Mr. Kenneth Murphy administered the Oath of Office to new Board member Deborah Lawson and photos were taken.

Dangerous Dog Appeal Panel Recommendations: Ms. Hannah Thompson [PH Accreditation Benchmark #18.2, 34.2, 35.1b]

(Presented by Mr. Kenneth Murphy)

Mr. Murphy noted that the Board members had copies if the information on this appeal and had reviewed it. Mr. Murphy then explained the appeal process and spoke about the decision of the three-member appeal panel. There was discussion of this case by the Board members and the Board members that had been on the appeal panel responded to several questions. There was some discussion of how the dog had gotten out of the house and that the owner had been surprised at the dog's behavior.

After further discussion Mr. McKinley Wooten motioned to adopt the recommendation of the appeal panel and Chair Dr. Smith asked for a second. Ms. Margaret Raynor seconded the motion. The Board members then voted unanimously to adopt and uphold the written decision of the appeal panel.

Child Fatality Task Force Annual Report

(Presented by Dr. Theresa Flynn)

Dr. Flynn introduced herself and explained that in 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams (CFPT's) across the state to confidentially review medical examiner reports, death certificates and other records of deceased residents under age 18. Each local team consists of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community such as law enforcement, Guardian Ad Litem, and health departments, among others, that provide services to children and their families. Chair Dr. Smith then thanked both Mr. McKinley Wooten and Mr. John Myhre for representing the Board on the task force.

Mr. McKinley then asked about how the Board members should rotate membership on other committees and task forces as he thinks that it is important for other Board members to get the opportunity to sit on Child Fatality Task Force. He stated that there is a lot that Board members can learn from the community and the social determinates. Chair Dr. Smith agreed that this was something he would like to have other Board members experience. He asked that an agenda item be added at the next meeting to discuss the different Boards and Committees that board members were volunteering on. Dr. Flynn thanks Mr. Myhre and Mr. Wooten for being a part of this task force.

Dr. Flynn then reviewed data in the report and explained that the purpose of this report is to give a summary of the causes of death, the number of cases reviewed, and recommendations for prevention, if any, that have been made and to share local team activities and accomplishments. Dr. Flynn then explained some of the statistics to the group.

Chair Ms. Welsh asked Dr. Flynn to discuss the requirement of this task force by general statutes and Dr. Flynn spoke about the different things that these task forces do and examples of what they can advocate for, such as increasing newborn screening tests. The information that comes from county task forces feeds up to the main state task force and the information is assessed. Chair Ms. Welsh asked about situations where investigations may show that siblings of a child that died could be in danger and may need to be removed from their home. Dr. Flynn explained that all information reviewed in the room by the task force is completely confidential. Dr. Flynn explained that there is a policy in place that when there is an unexplained child death and there are living siblings in the home then Child Protection is called, and they will investigate to make sure that the other children are safe.

Ms. Welsh spoke about a recent funding to create a Wake County Child Abuse Prevention Plan. She spoke about the broad sector participation and noted that the Child Fatality Task Force needs to be involved with this group as well. This new plan focuses on the five protective factors that help prevent abuse rather than waiting to respond after it has happened. One of the five protective factors are the whole system of social networks and support that the community can use to figure out strategies. Chair Dr. Smith stated that he had heard about this new group and that everyone, including the Human Services Director, are working hard on this.

Mayor Eagles asked about prenatal care and wanted to know if the lack of prenatal care was reflected in this report. Dr. Flynn stated that certainly the lack of prenatal care would play a part in some cases. There was some discussion on the drop in WIC numbers and what could be done. Dr. Smith spoke about the critical point with the County and the Population Health Task Force report details and that a game plan is being worked on to help address these concerns. Dr. Smith stated that we need increased funding for community support. He spoke about these issues still happening with women who have health insurance and good prenatal care. There was some discussion on the racial disparity and what we can do as a community to get additional funding for community support. The Wake County Human Services Prenatal Clinic is partnering with Community Care and they are brainstorming to see what they can do to bring more women in for prenatal care. Dr. Flynn then spoke about a program in Florida that is being researched. The program is called The JJ Way and it has managed to eliminate racial disparities in preterm and newborn deaths.

Chair Dr. Smith stated that the report has been reviewed and received and he asked for a motion to accept the report and recommend it to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Myhre motioned, and Ms. Stephanie Treadway seconded. The Board voted unanimously to recommend this report to the Board of Commissioners.

Child Care Wait List Policy

(Presented by Ms. Linda Bauer)

Ms. Bauer reviewed the Policy and discussed in detail the Prioritization for Subsidized Child Care Assistance Wait List and the Prioritization for Reduction in Services. Ms. Bauer spoke about the requirement for each County to have a written and approved local Child Care Wait List Policy. She then spoke about the allocation and additional funding that has been received as well as grants from the Smart Start organization. She also explained that the county is required to have this Policy and it is unlikely to be used but is put in a Policy as required in case the situation ever arises.

Mayor Eagles asked how many people were on the wait list. Ms. Bauer reported it was 309 people. Ms. Petteway stated that the wait list will never be at zero since people will always be applying. Ms. Petteway then stated that at one time the number of people on the wait list was over 3,000 so to have the number at 309 is an incredible job by our staff. Mayor Eagles agreed but stated that there is more to do and that he hopes to see the wait list revised and brought to zero in the future.

Dr. O'Connell asked about the version of the Policy being presented and Ms. Bauer stated that the basic Policy is established but that the version being presented today is a revision to the existing Policy. During this discussion there was some confusion on the wording used in section II, the Description of Standard that states "The order of the listing determines the priority ranking of the groups to be served during a wait list status." Ms. Bauer explained this sentence and then Ms. Petteway asked that this wording be amended for clarity.

Chair Dr. Smith asked for a motion to approve and accept the Policy. Mr. McKinley Wooten motioned to approve with the amended wording as discussed and Ms. Margaret Raynor seconded.

Fatherhood Initiative Program

(Presented by Mr. Jason Mahoney)

Mr. Mahoney spoke about a scenario where a woman decides to put her child up for adoption and the baby's father is unaware and therefore he is never involved and not aware that his parental rights will be terminated. Mr. Mahoney then spoke about the importance of reaching out to fathers when there are issues with children being moved to Foster care. He spoke of the importance of involving fathers and that Child welfare is trying to do a better job of reaching out to the fathers of children to engage them in their children's welfare.

He then discussed the barriers to father involvement in the Child Welfare system:

- Difficulty identifying and locating fathers.
- Gatekeeping by mothers.
- Lack of interest by fathers.
- Lack of paternity establishment.
- Lack of resources and services to refer fathers to.
- Difficulty knowing how to get fathers more involved.
- Lack of clear policy on when and how to involve dads.
- Stereotypes about fathers.

Mr. Mahoney took some time to respond to questions from the Board members. Chair Dr. Smith spoke about the issue of identifying fathers and once identified he spoke of his disappointment in the lack of interest by the fathers in taking a part of raising their children. There was some general discussion on this topic and how changes to this perception were trying to be made, such as television commercials showing diversity and single Dads raising children.

The three goals of the Fatherhood Initiative are:

1. To provide culturally relevant, father-friendly services to all Wake County fathers needing support services.
2. To increase the involvement of fathers at all levels of prevention, intervention and programming delivered by Wake County Human Services.
3. To equip Wake County Human Services' staff with the skills, knowledge and tools to better locate, engage, and successfully reunify fathers with their children and families.

Father Engagement Services desired outcomes is to work in achieving safety, permanency and wellbeing for North Carolina children and their families.

Wake County's Fatherhood Engagement Services works with the following focus populations:

1. Fathers with children involved in Child Welfare Programs (Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoption, or Prevention)
2. Fathers receiving services from other Wake County Human Services Programs.

3. Fathers living within Wake County.

Services provided to fathers are:

1. One on One Coaching – teaching day to day life skills as well as skills to care for their child
2. Groups Community Education – Partnership with the Family Resource Center Day 2 and Day Dads program that is specifically for dads
3. Information, linkage and referral – at any time a father can walk in and see a social worker for help or information.

Chair Dr. Smith asked that Mr. Mahoney come back in one year to report the results of this program and to let the Board know what the needs are at that time. Ms. Petteway also asked that in one year the staff look at this Program and see where we can make improvements or changes to the Program or Policies and issues that are related to this program.

Chair Dr. Smith thanked Mr. Jason Mahoney for his presentation.

Board Committee Chairs' Reports:

- Social Services Committee: Committee Chair Angie Welsh spoke about a great November meeting and that attendance has been up with all but one member attending the November meeting. She spoke about the productive discussion around Food Security and the Snap program.
- Public Health Committee – Committee Chair Dr. Smith reported that the November meeting has been cancelled due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Regional Networks Committee – Mayor Eagles thanked Ms. Welsh for being the host of the Joint CAC meeting that took place last week. He then spoke about what a great meeting it was and that it was the most attended joint meeting so far.

Human Services Directors Report

(Presented by Ms. Regina Petteway)

Ms. Petteway spoke about how pleased she was with today's presentations. She also reported that they are in the process of prioritizing expansion requests and they will be brought to the Board in the future. A lot of the expansion requests have to do with some of the information that was presented today. She also reported that staff, with support from the county office, are using innovative ways of handling the amount of staff that it is taking to process new and recertifications due to the increase in caseloads. She spoke about several other expansion requests including one in the women's clinic and then asked for the Boards support for these expansions. Commissioner West asked where Social and Economic Vitality fit in the Human Services budget. Ms. Petteway stated that it begins with Catherine Williams then becomes a part of the Human Services budget request.

Ms. Petteway then spoke about the lean process that took place for Child Welfare and stated that she would like to bring specific stakeholders into the room to show a specific continuum. She stated that the Board members would be invited to this as well so that they can see the process.

She spoke about the State wanting children to move through the system and into adoption within a year and that due to the court system it can take as much as 3-5 years. Mr. McKinley also spoke about the one-year requirement for adoption being aspirational at most due to the court system and other factors that take time as well as the number of children in care. Ms. Petteway mentioned that it may be time to ask for more judges to help reduce the time that children spend in foster care before adoption is final. Ms. Welsh spoke about the Duke Endowment and that their number one priority is to reduce the time that children spend in foster care before adoption. She passed on to Ms. Petteway that there will be a letter of intent sent from the Duke Endowment and that Phil Redmond will be the contact for this group and suggested that Ms. Petteway look in to this. Mr. Wooten asked that we keep in mind part of the strategy should be legislative as well. Typically, in adoption cases when there is a termination of parental rights that takes place it is normally appealed. Recent legislative changes will make this appeal process much longer and will prolong the process even more. He stated that there is advocacy must be done to change this process that will include contacting the legislature.

Environmental Services Director's Report

(Presented by Dr. Joseph Threadcraft)

Dr. Threadcraft reported that the Environmental Services Budget has been presented to the County Manager and then went on to discuss some of the expansion requests. Dr. Perry asked about the publicity of the sewage overflow during the recent heavy rains and asked if this is under the County prevue. Dr. Threadcraft stated that this is not septic related issue but a municipal sewer which is a city issue. Dr. Perry stated that this could be a Public Health issue and if contaminants were to reach the water system such as the surrounding creeks. Dr. Threadcraft agreed that if there were contaminant reaching the water system it is a public health issue but that those bodies of water are in the State jurisdiction and would fall under the state. There is a County spill response team that would be involved from an organizational perspective, but we would not have jurisdictional authority.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Ms. Margaret Raynor reported that the current balance of the Board fund is \$3,930.92. She then asked Ms. Pettway about the donation request that is normally received from Child Welfare. Ms. Petteway also mentioned that there is normally a request for staff appreciation as well. Ms. Petteway stated that she would bring requests to the Board at the next meeting in December.

Participation in Community Events:

- Chair Dr. Smith took a moment to thank those that could attend the Joint CAC meeting that took place last week. Ms. Welsh spoke about the meeting and the large amount of community members, staff, and Board members that attended. She praised the way that the meeting was organized and the dialog that took place. She also spoke about the advocacy training that took place in the afternoon session and how well it was presented. Mr. Myhre also spoke about being very pleased to have attended this program as well.

- Ms. Raynor spoke about participating on the Legacy Committee for the Dix Park master plan and reported the plan will be finalized and presented soon. Dr. Smith also spoke about hearing the director of the Legacy Committee present the draft plan and is looking forward to what will become of the park.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Chair Dr. Smith asked that an agenda item be added to the next meeting to discuss the Board members positions on other Committees. This would be an opportunity to find out what Board members are volunteering for and representing the Board.
- Mr. Jason Mahoney to report back on one year on the Fatherhood Initiative program results and needs.

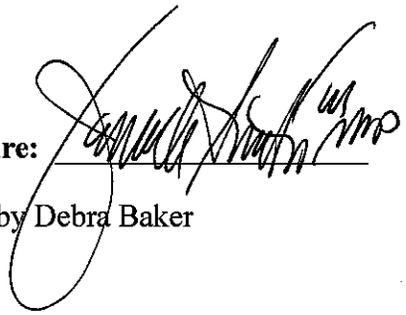
Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 am.

Board Chair's Signature:



Date:

12/20/18

Respectfully submitted by Debra Baker