



CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 3rd, 2025

224 Seminary Street

Kenansville, N.C. 28349

The Consolidated Human Services Board met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 6th, 2025 in the Commissioners Room located at 224 Seminary Street, Kenansville, N.C.

Present: Commissioners: Chairman Dexter B. Edwards; Vice Chairman Elwood Garner; Jesse L. Dowe, III; Wayne Branch; and Justin Edwards.

Also Present: Carrie Shields, Deputy County Manager; Tim Wilson, County Attorney; Chelsey Lanier, Finance Officer; Jasmine Savage, Administrative Specialist and Jaime W. Carr, Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edwards.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was given by Mayor A.J. Connors of Warsaw. Mayor Connors then led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Chairman Edwards asked if the members of the Board approved the proposed meeting agenda, and if any Board Member, County Manager, or Clerk to the Board wished to make any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes/additions made.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dowe, seconded by Commissioner Branch, carried unanimously, to approve the meeting agenda as amended

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner J. Edwards, carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the October 6th, 2025 Consolidated Human Services Board meeting as presented.

Regular Meeting Agenda

Public Comments

A.J. Connors, the NC Tar Heel Senior Legislator for Duplin County, addressed the Board during public comments to express concerns of mistreatment and neglect at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He argued that scheduled inspections don't

capture the true daily conditions residents face and advocated for unannounced inspections as a better method to identify problems. Mr. Connors requested that the relevant county department investigate these allegations and take action to safeguard residents' well-being and dignity.

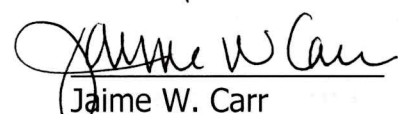
Jessica Thomas, from the Sarecta community addressed the Board during public comments to request that the Board review all major decisions made under former county manager Bryan Miller, particularly the Health Department and Department of Social Services consolidation. She pointed out that other counties have approached consolidation with clearer structures that look nothing like what was implemented locally. With new County leadership now in place, Ms. Thomas urged the Board to evaluate whether this consolidation truly serves the public and stated that all policies and contracts from the previous administration need to be reviewed for integrity and transparency.

End Public Comments

Annie Murrell, Department of Social Services Director, provided the Board with a departmental update. Ms. Murrell reported that Blue Cross of North Carolina was awarded the Children and Family Specialty Plan (CFSP) contract in August 2024, with the program set to launch on December 1st of this year and managed under Healthy Blue. She stated that the CFSP is a single, statewide North Carolina Medicaid Managed Care health plan specifically designed to provide seamless, integrated, and coordinated healthcare for beneficiaries, ensuring they can access necessary healthcare services, including mental health care, while maintaining continuity with their doctors even if placements move them across the state. Regarding the federal shutdown's impact on benefits, Ms. Murrell stated that federal judges have ordered continued SNAP funding, however state partners are still awaiting additional guidance from the USDA on how to implement reduced benefits. Finally, DSS will hold its annual foster care and adoption bake sale on November 25th, a tradition spanning more than 40 years, with the event beginning at the courthouse at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Tracey Simmons-Kornegay, Health Director, provided the Board with an update that included an epidemiology report, a departmental budget update, and a personnel report. She announced that a flu vaccination event is scheduled for November 19th, 2025. In regard to accreditation, Dr. Simmons-Kornegay shared that a hybrid site visit is planned for February 25th, 2026, and noted that two Board members will need to be selected to participate. She also reported that the 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan has been approved and received recognition at the state-level. Despite the ongoing federal shutdown, Dr. Simmons-Kornegay assured the Board that WIC program funding is secured through November, despite the ongoing federal government shutdown. Additionally, she announced several upcoming events: the County Opioid Meeting on November 18th, 2025, at the Ed Emory Auditorium, as well as two community outreach events: a Thanksgiving Food Drive on November 26th, 2025, and a Christmas Food Drive on December 23rd, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Garner, carried unanimously, to adjourn until Monday, December 1st, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. for a Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting at the Administrative Building, located at 224 Seminary Street in Kenansville, N.C.


Jaime W. Carr
Clerk to the Board