



CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2026

224 Seminary Street

Kenansville, N.C. 28349

The Consolidated Human Services Board met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026 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: Lisa Hughes, Interim County Manager; Carrie Shields, Deputy County Manager; Tim Wilson, County Attorney; Chelsey Lanier, Finance Officer; 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 Commissioner Branch. Commissioner Branch 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 or additions were made.

Motion was made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Garner, carried unanimously, to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner J. Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Dowe, carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2026 Consolidated Human Services Board meeting as presented.

Regular Meeting Agenda

Public Comments

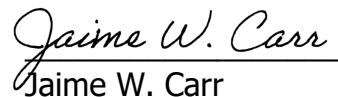
No public comments.

End Public Comments

Annie Murrell, DSS Director, presented a departmental update to the Board. Ms. Murrell reported that DSS continues to meet all state standards and program benchmarks outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding. She noted that funds for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), which provides a one-time annual payment to help eligible households with heating costs, remain available through March 31 or until all funds are depleted. For the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), which assists individuals and families facing heating or cooling emergencies, Ms. Murrell shared that the state has partnered with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to create an eligibility interview guide, and Duplin County is one of three counties piloting the new SNAP interview tool. This supports the goal of reducing the FNS error rate to under six percent.

Dr. Tracey Simmons-Kornegay, Health Director, presented a departmental update to the Board, including an epidemiology report and a budget report. She noted that the Health Department recently completed its accreditation site visit on Wednesday, February 25, and preliminary findings showed that three (3) of the one hundred and forty-seven (147) required activities were missed, and additional quality-improvement recommendations are expected. Dr. Simmons-Kornegay reported that staff are working on the State of the County Health (SOTCH) Report, due April 1. Finally, she shared that the department has received its FY 27 Consolidated Agreement from the Division of Public Health, along with associated agreements.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner J. Edwards, carried unanimously, to adjourn until Monday, April 6th, 2026 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