



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY KINSLEY • Secretary
SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being
DREW PLEDGER Chairman

Meeting Minutes
Social Services Commission Quarterly Meeting
December 13, 2023

I. Call to Order

1. Chairman Pledger called the Social Services quarterly meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Meeting was virtual using Go-To-Webinar.
2. Chairman Pledger read the ethic statement/conflicts of interest statement; being that there were none, Paris Penny proceeded to call the roll.
3. Social Services Commission roll call:
 - a. **Commissioners in attendance and constituting a quorum were:** Chairman Drew Pledger, Ernestine Taylor, Rebecca Andrews, Anthony Anderson, Brandie Walser, Samantha Branch, Jeanne Lindquist, Dr. Tia Crooms, Margie Christopher, Vice Chairman Robert Simmons, Cindy Locklear, Wixie Stephens, Willa Wyatt, and Tanisha James
 - b. **Commissioners absent:**
 - c. **DHHS Staff Present:** Paris Penny (DSS), David Lee (DSS), Misty Piekaar-McWilliams (DAAS), Glenda Artis (DAAS), and Jay Pontier (NC FAST)
 - d. **DOJ Staff Present:** Adrian Dellinger, Tom Campbell and Coleen Crowley
 - e. **Others:**
4. Chairman Drew Pledger provided introductions and opening remarks.
5. Motion by Robert Simmons to move and approve the meeting minutes from September 13, 2023. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews and carried without dissent.

II. New Business

1. Appointments to county boards of social services to fill the seats. Applications voted upon as follows:
 - a. Congressional District 1:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Melvin Tatem to Chowan County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Robert McClees to Tyrrell County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews and carried without dissent

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- iii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Teresa Blanchard to Perquimans County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - iv. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Thelma Finch-Copeland to Perquimans County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
 - v. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Cindy Davis to Warren County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wixie Stephens and carried without dissent.
- b. Congressional District 3:
- i. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint Cynthia Mattocks to Craven County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint Barbara Harris to Duplin County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint Yvette Gibbs to Hyde County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - iv. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint Gena Torrence to Jones County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - v. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint William Gray to Lenoir County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wixie Stephens and carried without dissent.
 - vi. Motion by Commissioner Tia Crooms to move to appoint Mary Branch to Pamlico County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tanisha James and carried without dissent.
- c. Congressional District 4:
- vi. Motion by Commissioner Pledger to move to appoint Candy Snyder to Alamance County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ernestine Taylor and carried without dissent.
 - vii. Motion by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons to move to appoint Wendy Sotolongo to Durham County Department of Social Services

- Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
- viii. Motion by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons to move to appoint Ernestine Howard to Granville County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - ix. Motion by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons to move to appoint Christopher Barnes to Orange County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - x. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Geraldine Yancey to Person County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
- d. Congressional District 5:
 - i. Motion by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons to move to appoint Charles Rudy to Alleghany County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Willa Wyatt and carried without dissent.
 - e. Congressional District 6:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Cindy Locklear to move to appoint Elbert Lassiter to Randolph County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - f. Congressional District 8:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Cindy Locklear to move to appoint Maria Soto to Chatham County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rebecca Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
 - g. Congressional District 10:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Leon Godlock to Rutherford County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Willa Wyatt and carried without dissent.

III. Presentations

- IV. Motion to accept the proposed amendment to rule 10A NCAC 06T .0201 contingent upon no public comments received during the comment period and with the stipulation that if public comments are received by the agency, an emergency meeting would be called. Robert Simmons approved the rule changes subject to the stipulations imposed. Motion seconded by Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.

V. Staff Comments

Pleased to announce David Lee is the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) who joined our team on October 23. David comes to us from the Commonwealth of Maryland where he

served in various positions on both the local, county, and state level in their department of human services.

We'd like for you to come in person for the March quarterly meeting because directly after the meeting we will be providing orientation to rule making. Please plan to save the date.

The following counties did not receive any applications so another public notice will be issued in January 2024: Anson, Burke, Caswell, Iredell, Wayne

North Carolina budget passed without signature for 2023-2025 on October 3. Therefore, DHHS is planning for how funds will be spent to help child welfare (i.e., children in ER or DSS offices). Contingent upon a plan, staff support will bring information forward to the March quarterly meeting.

VI. Commission Comments

Information is not current on county websites about current board chairs so staff support will request current information from counties and add it to the master spreadsheet with director name, number, email and board chair name, number and email.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Vice Chairman Robert Simmons to adjourn the quarterly meeting at 11:37 a.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.

The next quarterly meeting is March 13, 2024.