



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

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
CARLA WEST • Division Director, Human Services
DREW PLEDGER • Chairman, Social Services Commission

Meeting Minutes
Social Services Commission Quarterly Meeting
August 4, 2025

I. Call to Order

1. Chairman Pledger called the Social Services quarterly meeting to order at 9:04 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, Rebecca Andrews, Kelsey Crowe, Brandie Walsler, Jeanne Lindquist, Margie Christopher, Willa Wyatt, Tanisha James, Robert Simmons, Rebecca Andrews, Wixie Stephens, Samantha Branch, and Ernestine Taylor
 - b. **Commissioners absent:**
 - c. **DHHS Staff Present:** Paris Penny (DSS), Danielle Upchurch (DSS), and Jay Pontier (NC FAST)
 - d. **DOJ Staff Present:** Adrian Dellinger

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 Sandra Rudd Knight to Halifax County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Janet Walker to Northampton County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Caroline Gurganus to Washington County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.

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- iv. Motion by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews to move to allow more time to vet applicant, Dante Pittman to Wilson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
- v. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint Karla E Brooks Camden County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- vi. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint Margie Searing to Currituck County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brandie Walser and carried without dissent.
- vii. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint Lillie Williams to Lenior County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
- viii. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to allow more time to vet applicant, Javan L Leach to Pasquotank County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
- ix. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to allow more time to vet applicant, Arlene S. Midgett to Tyrrell County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- b. Congressional District 3:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint Linda Brooks to Beaufort County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to reappoint Victor Taylor to Craven County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint Jennifer Wilford to Pamlico County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- c. Congressional District 5:
 - iv. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint Tracey Irvine to Caldwell County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
- d. Congressional District 6:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Brandie Walser to allow more time to vet applicant, Caleb Sink to Davidson County Department of Social

- Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
- ii. Motion by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist to move to reappoint Ariella Sanchez to Rowan County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
- e. Congressional District 9:
- i. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to allow more time to vet, Memory Dossenbach to Chatham County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to allow more time to appoint Alexis Coleman to Randolph County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Tanisha James to allow more time to vet applicant, Richard Everett to Cumberland County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Tanisha James to allow more time to vet applicant, Carl Pevia to Hoke County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Tanisha James to allow more time to vet applicant, Stephen Phillips to Moore County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
 - iv. Motion by Commissioner Tanisha James to allow more time to vet applicant, Anthony Price to Moore County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.
- f. Congressional District 11:
- i. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint Billie Cathy King to Yancey County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Margie Christopher and carried without dissent.
- g. Congressional District 13:
- i. Motion by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews to move to allow more time to vet applicant, Leroy Hartsfield to Franklin County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews to move to appoint Debra Lee to Harnett County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.

- iii. Motion by Commissioner Rebecca Andrews to move to appoint Kimberly Robertson to Johnston County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.

III. Staff Comments

IV. Commission Comments

V. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Brandie Walser to adjourn the quarterly meeting at 9:52 a.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.

The next quarterly meeting is September 10, 2025.

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