



**LINCOLN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 29, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Social Services Board was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Social Services Building. Members present were Dr. Sherry Hoyle, Jill Eaddy, Daphne Ingram, Alex Patton, and Pastor Mike Devine. Others in attendance were Matthew Hillman, Director; Kelley Miles, Deputy Director; Ruth Lockman, Business Manager; Mendie Kelly, Children Services Program Manager; Jason Hughes, Placement Services Program Manager; Roni Duckworth, Economic Services Program Manager; Jennifer Sigmon, Adult Services Program Manager; and, Denise Dula, Business Operations Supervisor/Designated Clerk to the Social Services Board.

Call to Order-Matthew Hillman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Hillman moderated the meeting until the new Chair was elected.

Invocation-Alex Patton gave an invocation.

Adoption of the Agenda-Adoption of the Agenda was approved by motion from Alex Patton, second by Dr. Sherry Hoyle, with all members in favor.

Public Comment-No public comments were made.

Oath of Office-Denise Dula administered the Oath of Office to Pastor Mike Devine. Pastor Devine was appointed by the County Commissioners on July 21, 2025. This will be Pastor Devine's first term.

Officers Election-Matthew Hillman opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Social Services Board. Dr. Sherry Hoyle nominated Alex Patton, second by Jill Eaddy. Nominations were closed with all members in favor. Alex Patton accepted the position of Chair of the Social Services Board.

At this time, Mr. Hillman relinquished as moderator of the meeting. Alex Patton assumed his role as Chair of the Social Services Board.

Alex Patton opened the nominations for Vice Chair. Jill Eaddy nominated Daphne Ingram, second by Dr. Sherry Hoyle. Nominations were closed with all members in favor. Daphne Ingram accepted the position of Vice Chair of the Social Services Board.

Board Committee Appointments-Jill Eaddy indicated she would be willing to serve on the Community Child Protection/Fatality Team. Daphne Ingram and Alex Patton stated they would serve on the Adoption Committee. All Board members were in favor of the commitments.

Minutes-Minutes from the June 25, 2025, meeting was approved by motion from Dr. Sherry Hoyle, second by Jill Eaddy, with all members in favor.

Old Business-Matthew Hillman provided an update on the Recipient Eligibility Determination Audit (REDA)-Round Two. The REDA finished in March 2025. Although the audit is complete, DSS still has not received the final notification letter. Mr. Hillman stated DSS was hopeful to have the letter by August 2025 indicating the findings which could include being placed on an Accuracy Improvement Plan (AIP) and if there are any paybacks.

Matthew Hillman gave legislative updates. The State of North Carolina has still not passed a budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. Therefore, DSS is utilizing last year's funding amounts. Also, DSS is working with the legal team on the Foster Care in NC Act implementation. In addition, DSS has reached out to the county attorney regarding the Adult Services Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).

Matthew Hillman noted the Partnership and Technology of North Carolina (PATH NC) will be going live on Monday, August 11, 2025. PATH NC is a children services support network that will streamline data collection from multiple agencies and organizations throughout the full life of each case to better support work. During the week of August 11, 2025, there will be two state trainers present ensuring everyone has access to the program.

Matthew Hillman gave an updated overview of the recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Mr. Hillman explained how the bill's cuts to Medicaid and other social programs such as Food and Nutrition could have negative consequences for low-income individuals and families. The following was discussed:

First, Mr. Hillman noted the federal changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Administrative costs in SNAP are those costs incurred by the state and by counties to run the SNAP program. Currently, the federal government pays 50 percent of administrative cost, and states/counties pay the other 50 percent. Beginning in October 2026, under the Federal Reconciliation Bill the federal government will pay 25 percent of administrative costs of SNAP, and states/counties will pay 75 percent of administrative costs of SNAP. As a result, NC state administrative costs are likely to increase by 16 million dollars. NC county administrative costs are likely to increase by 67 million dollars.

Second, federal changes to Medicaid include a total loss of funding at 49.9 billion dollars over a ten year period. More than 70 percent of Medicaid cuts will come from cuts to North Carolina's hospital expenditures. NC rural hospitals alone will see a 3.7 billion dollar Medicaid cut. Hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians are expected to lose health coverage. In addition, without a statutory change, the new administrative costs for work requirements will likely trigger the NC law that ends Medicaid expansion, resulting in coverage loss for 671,476 people. Mr. Hillman stated as more information is learned, he will update the Board.

New Business-Matthew Hillman stated in October 2025, Lincoln County Courts would be utilizing the NC Clerk of Court Odyssey system, also known as eCourts Odyssey. This is a statewide electronic filing and case management system for North Carolina courts. It's a component of the broader eCourts initiative aimed at transitioning the court system from paper-based to digital processes. Odyssey replaces older systems and integrates various functions including e-filing, case management, and financial management, into one platform.

Budget Reports-Matthew Hillman noted End of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Final Projections will be presented during the Board meeting in August 2025.

Statistical Reports-Matthew Hillman expressed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) data continues to look great. Mr. Hillman noted the hard work of all managers, supervisors, and staff to ensure monthly requirements are met on a consistent basis.

Other-No information presented.

Date of Next Meeting-Due to a conflict, Alex Patton stated a need to change the next scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. All Board members agreed the Social Services Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Sherry Hoyle, second by Daphne Ingram, with all members in favor.

This meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved- August 19, 2025



Alex Patton, Chairperson



Matthew Hillman, Director

Respectfully Submitted:



Denise S. Dula, Designated Clerk
Social Services Board

Cc: file copy