

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION –APRIL 19, 2021**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., at the Universal Conference Room.

**Members Present**

Tony Brown, Chair; David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

**Members Absent**

Brenda Vaughn

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Lisa Sprouse, DSS Director; Jennifer Morgan, Child Welfare Supervisor

**Call to Order**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 11:34a.m.

**DSS Update – Adult Services**

Ms. Sprouse gave an update and distributed the agency reports. A copy is with the agenda materials.

April is Child Abuse/Neglect Awareness Month and Ms. Sprouse thanked the Board for their Proclamation recognizing this special month.

Ms. Sprouse noted there were several employees that currently have tested positive for the COVID virus. She added out of 111 employees, 20% have been vaccinated. She stated while at work the employees were wearing their mask, and the offices had been disinfected since the outbreak.

Ms. Jennifer Morgan, Child Protective Services (CPS) Program Administrator, was happy to report there had been no children deaths due to abuse and neglect in the county. She added during 2020 the child abuse/neglect claims were higher, possibly due to the family unit being at home more.

Ms. Morgan reported:

- CPS Intake was the first stage of the child welfare process. Last year the unit screened in 492 reports; screened out 232 reports; and received 524 calls that fell in the other category.
- Assessments have 54 cases open, and have two openings for Assessment Workers.
- In-Home Services have 39 families being served by 5 workers.
- The Foster Care team currently has 106 kids in foster care served by 9 workers

- For 18-21-year-old in Foster Care there are 5 children and one social worker
- NC LINKS program has one social worker currently serving 98 children

There are currently 42 licensed foster homes and four families waiting to be licensed, and 12-14 foster family meetings per month, with one Licensing Worker.

Ms. Morgan noted the Supervisor to Worker ratios shall not exceed an average of one fulltime equivalent supervisory position to five fulltime equivalent positions. The agency is staffed: 1:8; 1:6; 1:7; 1:6; and the Program Administrator Supervising 3.

Per policy the Program Administrator should not supervise direct employees other than supervisors. At this time the unit is over ratio 9 workers. Request for a supervisory position would be in the department budget proposal.

Chairman Brown thanked Ms. Sprouse and Ms. Morgan for the presentation and the work of the department.

Mr. Wooten noted he was conducting interviews for the Transit Director, and requested a meeting with the Board to review his selection. Discussion followed on availability to meet.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to recess at 12:21pm to Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 11:00am, to the Commissioner's Board Room at 60 East Court Street, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

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Cheryl L. Mitchell  
Clerk to the Board

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Tony G. Brown  
Chairman