

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DSS REGULAR SESSION – APRIL 15, 2019**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 15, 2019, at 11:33a.m., at the Department of Social Services, 145 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chair; Lynn Greene; Brenda Vaughn

Members Absent

Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Barry McPeters

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Lisa Sprouse, Director of Social Services;

Supervisor Meeting Update to Commissioners

Ms. Sprouse noted she and Mr. Wooten had met with the supervisors to receive an update on their division. Some of the suggestions during the meeting have been implemented. Each supervisor was also given the opportunity to discuss their budget needs.

Chairman Walker suggested updates from the Board meetings be shared with the supervisors, and then shared with the rest of the employees. He also asked Ms. Sprouse to remind the employees of the chain of command for their good or critical comments on how to better communicate with the employees.

Commissioner Vaughn stated if a supervisor had an issue with an employee, the supervisor should go to Ms. Sprouse privately to keep confidentiality, and not bring up the issue at the supervisor's meetings. Ms. Sprouse noted that was expressed in the supervisor's meeting.

Discussion was held on dealing with trust issues with some of the employees, and offering guidance to supervisors on discipline for the employees.

Adult Services 101

Ray Burleson, Adult Services Supervisor, introduced program directors; Gwen Conley; Neva Gallent; Stephanie Causby; and Shannon Jones. Mr. Burleson gave a presentation on the services provided by the Adult Services. A copy of which is in the agenda packet.

Some of the services Mr. Burleson highlighted included:

- Unclaimed bodies -- per NCGS130A-415, after the dead body has not been claimed for 10 days Adult Protective Services (APS) has the body cremated. Sunny Grove Church donated cemetery space to the department for the unclaimed bodies. APS needs funds to buy a plaque for each grave site which approximate cost is \$250 per plaque.
- Community Alternatives Program (CAP)-have 64 slots, but currently have 69 in the program; have requested 90 slots from the State; takes 9 months to a year to get on the system, unless the client has Alzheimer's.
- Special Assistance (SA)-In Home- like CAP must be disabled adults rest home eligible— 60 slots of which 14 are used by mental health
- Adult Home Specialists—monitors the county's 7 large facilities, and 6 small facilities
- Guardianship- currently have 41 cases—3 types: general; guardian of the person; and guardian of the estate
- Adult Protective Services (APS)—currently have had 15 cases reported this month

DSS Budget Overview

Ms. Sprouse reviewed the line items she was requesting an increase for in her budget; unclaimed bodies program; adoption assistance; contract workers; and one guardianship position which is SW 2 level.

Questions and Answers

Chair Walker would like to address the dress code for the county. Mr. Wooten will work on an employee dress code.

Mr. Wooten suggested meeting for a workshop on the cost of a county operated stand alone Health Dept. Ms. Karen Powell, RPM Health Director would present her budget at a future meeting.

Adjourn

Commissioner Greene made a motion to recess to 11:30am on Monday, April 29th at the Commissioners Board Room, second by Commissioner Vaughn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:26pm.

Attest:

David Walker
Chair

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board