



THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES HELD THEIR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M. AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN ST. ROCKY MOUNT VA

THOSE PRESENT: Sharon Tudor, Chairperson, Rocky Mount District Representative
Leslie Holden, Vice Chair, Blue Ridge District Representative
Barry Ferguson, Boone District Representative
Bill Gruchow, Union Hall District Representative
Dave Thorp, Snow Creek District Representative
Mike Carter, BOS Member

THOSE ABSENT: B.W. Wright, Blackwater District Representative
David "Dave" Metzger, Gills Creek Representative (Resigned)

OTHERS PRESENT: Anita "Toni" Turner, Director
Ashley Rutter, Assistant Director, Benefits Unit
Jessica Davis, Assistant Director, Services Unit
Karla Pagans, Human Resource Specialist

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY SHARON TUDOR, BOARD CHAIR

Invocation was given in honor of Memorial Day by Mike Carter, BOS Member

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Barry Ferguson, Boone District Representative

Sharon Tudor, Chair advised the Board, that Dave Metzger has officially resigned from the Board. Toni, Ashley and Sharon treated him to a farewell luncheon and gifted him a Leather Portfolio engraved with his name on it and farewell comments from DSS Staff.

Introduction by Anita "Toni" Turner, Director of the Franklin County Department of Social Services read the new Proclamation vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

It is hereby officially recognized declaring May to be observed by all citizens as **ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**. Those present were Wendy Webb, FSS IV, Michele Shannon FSS III, Brad Turner FSS III and Mitchell Mannon FSS III.

Sharon Tudor, Board Chair, thanked them for all their tireless efforts, and commitment to our agency and the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accounts Payable Listing & Approval of April 22, 2025, Minutes, Special Circumstance for Benefits, Administrative & Services Staff and the Recognition of May 2025 for Adult Abuse Prevention Month

(RESOLUTION #01-05-2025)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Franklin County Board of Social Services to approve the Consent Agenda as signified by raising their right hand.

MOTION BY: Barry Ferguson

SECONDED BY: Mike Carter

VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Ferguson, Carter, Thorp, Gruchow and Tudor

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Wright, Metzger (Resigned)

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: IN HOME SERVICES UNIT

Alexandra Young, Supervisor, In Home Unit, presented to the Board the following updates: MTA, Relief of Custody, CHINS, Grants, Referrals, Services, FAPT, Placements, Advocating, Monitoring, Urine Screens, Adults and Children. The Whole Family is considered more than one home. Of the seven filled positions, four are working on their Master's. One vacant position. We have (93) cases and (247) case participants. A "In-Home Services and Family Support FCDSS brochure was distributed to each Board Member.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: BENEFITS UNIT

Ashley Rutter, Assistant Director, Benefits Unit, provided the Board with an update of the monthly Benefits Report for all programs; Future of LIHEAP funding.

The APPTTrack compliance report for the month of April 2025 reflects 100% for expedited applications, 100% for non-expedited applications. The most recent PIMR report notes for TANF applications and 99.% for Medicaid Renewal processing, and 100% for Childcare assistance applications. VEW participation is now at 48%, exceeding the state's current average of 27.6%.

During the month of April, the following applications were received: PIPP Program: 68 (78 in previous month); SNAP: 123 (155 previous month); Medicaid: 248 (251 previous months). TANF: 2 (6 apps in previous month). Additionally, 6,509 documents were received and uploaded in our case management system (6,939 in previous month).

At the most recent VLSSE board meeting, it was discussed that there currently is no future funding for the LIHEAP program; LIHEAP funds our cooling assistance, PIPP, heating/fuel assistance, and the crisis energy program. It does appear that funding will cover the current cooling season; however, the future of all energy assistance programs is unknown at this time. There is a blackout and only partial (the cooling portion) is in reserve.

Sharon Tudor, Chair asked if there is any help during this crisis?" Ashley explained that they have the assistance of Helping Hands and Lake Christian Ministries. Leslie Holden inquired if any of this would be subsidized, and the answer was no.
No further questions.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: SERVICES UNIT

Jessica Davis, Assistant Director, Services Unit, provided the Board with an update. Safe Measures uses analytics to help social service agencies achieve better outcomes, improve service, and operate more effectively. Services Safe Measures data reviewed on 05/19/2025 with extraction data of 5/18/25, for data pulled, we met the Foster Care Visits, CPS Timeliness visit, In Home visits, and AFGAR court documentation, However, were below the goal of 24% for Kinship Placement. Basically, "We've done really well with the numbers". We have met all but one state measure goals. Again, Kinship is down, but it ebbs and flows. Sharon Tudor gave kudos to Jessica for her unit for achieving high standard marks. It exceeds Piedmont and the State's numbers. Sharon thanked Jessica for the unit's efforts and what they bring to our agency and asked that she share the boards congrats to her team.

No further questions.

DSS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vacancy Report only reflects six vacancies, and two of the hires are rehires from a previous time who came in with the ball running. Able to pick up and take off with the complication of dealing with new hires. Questions on Vacancy? Sharon Tudor would like to know how many clients APS has? Toni will inquire, but APS is under a different system known as DARS; Peer Place.

Sharon realizes that it is June, but she would like to know a carryover ballpark figure. Toni explained that we are 100,000 under budget, but with the county, you only get 15.5%.

Sharon asked Mike Carter that she noticed the 2025-2026 budget was cut in several areas after it was approved. Her main concern was for the safety of the workers at the department and that was cut drastically. The Security System was \$15,000., and it was raised \$2000., making a total of \$17,000. The other line items of concern were the travel for APS who really need the training at NAPSA which is out of state. Leslie Holden questioned the rent charged to DSS vs. schools not paying rent. Both are controlled by the county. Mike Carter stated that the school system owns their buildings until a time of sale and DSS building is owned by the County of Franklin.

Mike Carter stated that he would like to add DSS information to the BOS Friday packet. Allocation Plan was discussed by Toni.

No further questions.

OTHER MATTERS OR QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD :

Bill Gruchow stated, "First green on the sheet!" If Toni or the agency ever needed support he hoped they know that the Board was here for them.

In regards to, the new part time attorney, Brian Mangano, how is he working out with the agency? Great! Per Toni, he comes to us with CPS Investigator experience, he tries to teach and expects the same out of the agency. Everyone works very well together. Sharon asked if we have had any feedback from the courts? No, none. Per Toni, Mr. Mangano's

goal is truly to make us the best agency we can be. Board asked that she review his contract (90) days before his contract is up.

Mike Carter suggested that since we have such good figures, Toni should forward a letter of FCDSS updates to the County Administration Staff, Delegate Davis, Senator Stanley and Delegate Griffith sharing the great accomplishments made by said Agency.

As far as the Mod-U-Kraf Homes building is concerned, we need to contact our Board of Supervisors and urge them for the zoning and code change. Sharon stated that she would like to have FCDSS placed in the front office portion of the Mod-U-Kraf building. Mike stated currently, proposed uses for the manufacturing houses the 911-Public Safety and the School CTE Trade.

Barry Ferguson just wanted to state that he is amazed at the job Toni does. Such good numbers. Keep going.

Dave Thorp shared compliments for attorney Mangano and he came highly regarded. Also, he received an email stating that a "Yard Sale Drive" was being done by the Boones Mill Christian Church in raising funds for DSS. What is this about? Toni explained that they wanted to help us because we have displaced kids and in doing so, they wanted to help revamp our Visitation Room, and this was there way of reaching out. Lastly, he noticed the box of free clothing that we have in our entrance foyer. What a splendid idea. Toni explained that in lieu of giving clothing items away to Goodwill why not distribute them for free for all who may need them? We just placed gently used clothing, or items that we no longer want for the public to take as they need. Dave asked if he could donate to this, or his church? Toni said absolutely! Sharon asked Dave and others on the Board to share.

Leslie Holden just wanted to echo what everyone else was saying. This is such a wonderful board.

Sharon shared B.W. Wright's, Blackwater District Representative term will expire June 30, 2025. He has served two four-year terms which is what the State Code of Virginia allows. Penny Guilliams will assume his position on July 1, 2025.

There being no further business, Sharon thanked the entire board for being such a wonderful influence in the county and they were making great strides as a group. She also commended Mike Carter for all of his support.

Sharon Tudor, Board Chair, adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

Chairperson

Secretary