

**July 23, 2012**

A special joint meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners and Department of Social Services Board was held on Monday, July 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm to discuss and receive input regarding potential changes in the governance of human service programs at the local level. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Department of Social Services.

**Board of Commissioners present:**

Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman  
James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Vice Chairman  
Mark Gillespie  
David Gooden  
Daniel Dowless  
Russell Priest  
Delilah Blanks

Lewis Tatum, absent  
Billy Ray Pait, absent

**Department of Social Services Board members present:**

Louella Thompson, Chairperson  
Tommy Thompson, Vice Chairman  
Hiram Hester  
Delilah Blanks  
Joel Pava

Attorney present: Will Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

DSS Board Chairperson Louella Thompson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. DSS Board member Joel Pava provided the Invocation.

Commission Chairman Charles Ray Peterson presented a power point presentation to begin the discussion. He stressed that the commissioners have not discussed House Bill 438. He stated that the Commissioners wanted to hear from the DSS Board and the Health Board before making any decisions. He advised that the Health Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2012 and the Board of Commissioners will discuss their options after the two meetings.

The Board may consider the following options:

1. Assume direct control of certain local boards by adopting a resolution abolishing the board(s) and transferring their powers and duties to the board of county commissioners;
2. Create a consolidated human services agency (CHSA) governed by a consolidated human services board appointed by the county commissioners;
3. Create a CHSA governed directly by the county commissioners;
4. Keep existing model.

Department of Social Services Board members shared the following concerns:

Mr. Tommy Thompson:

1. The unknown
2. Will it be under State Personnel Act (SPA) or the County?
3. Cost of additional HSA director in addition to Health & DSS directors
4. Will State still provide support or pull funds?

Mr. Hiram Hester:

- Asked what do DSS, Health and County gain or lose? Mr. Hester stated that a feasibility study could show advantages/disadvantages.

**July 23, 2012**

Dr. Delilah Blanks:

- Stated that this legislation takes a Health model approach over DSS model and expressed concern regarding the need for a clear focus on social services programs.

Louella Thompson, Chairperson:

- Social issues should be major concerns which aren't addressed in this bill. Stated that we need to be willing to listen to each other.

Joel Pava:

- New Board member suggested that we need to think about good things in the County. He asked the Board to make decision that won't lead to problems but will lead to positive outcomes.

Social Services Director June Koenig stated:

1. Concern that the State would not provide support to assist counties
2. County must have federal merit system in place or federal funds would be in jeopardy
3. Bladen County should use caution and see how other counties do it.

Commissioner Daniel Dowless stated that he was concerned about what the State will do five (5) years down the road.

Commissioner Jimmy Smith requested that we keep Social Services Director June Koenig in our thoughts and prayers as she undergoes a medical procedure.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk