

County of Stafford
Board of Social Services

Minutes

The Stafford County Board of Social Services held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024, in the DSS/Procurement Conference Room of the Stafford County Government Center. The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Fred A. Donahoe, Chairman and Darrell E. English, member Board of Supervisors.

Member Absent: Gary F. Snellings, Vice Chairman.

Staff Present: Michael J. Muse, Director; Marcy T. Bruce, Assistant Director; Jodi P. Long, Administrative Office Manager; Valerie M. Hart, Family Services Specialist II; and Jennifer S. Frias, Administrative Analyst.

The following business was discussed and acted upon on June 24, 2024:

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Mr. English, the minutes from the May 20, 2024 Board meeting were approved as submitted.

Foster Care Statistics:

Mr. Muse reviewed with the Board statistical data relative to the foster care program. The following information was reported for the month of May 2024:

	May
Number of Children in Care	58
Number of Approved Resource Homes	48
Number of Resource Homes in use	24

Mr. Muse reported the total number of children receiving adoption subsidy and/or supportive services from Stafford DSS for the month of May 2024:

May
84

Mr. Muse advised the board that he received a call from a news reporter from The Free Lance Star asking about challenges with the availability of foster homes in Planning District 16. Mr. Muse advised the reporter that the biggest challenge is not having available homes to place teenagers and a growing need to have bi-lingual foster families. Stafford DSS currently has two children in foster care that only speak Spanish.

Mr. Muse advised the Board of an unsettling situation with a current foster child that happened in the Foster Care building at 1259 Courthouse Road and resulted in the child being arrested.

Fatherhood Incentive Funds:

VDSS is promoting fatherhood engagement and support across the child welfare system to empower families to work together to overcome challenges and prevent family separation. Stafford DSS submitted a Fatherhood Incentive Funds request and was awarded the maximum amount of \$12,476. These funds will be used for different initiatives to help engage fathers to include parenting classes, sponsoring events such as attending Fred Nats games, and community events to help strengthen fathers' relationships with their children.

Benefit Programs Statistics:

The statistical report for benefit programs was mailed to the Board members for the month of May 2024. (See Attachment A)

- **Medicaid Unwinding:**

Marcy Bruce shared data from the DMAS (Public Facing Website) showing Stafford DSS has made progress and has approximately 1,600 Medicaid renewals to complete by July 31st. Stafford DSS has created a special team of employees who are working diligently to meet the goal.

- **Cooling Assistance:**

Online and paper applications for the cooling assistance component began June 15, 2024. To be eligible for the assistance, there must be a vulnerable person residing in the home (child under 6 years old, adult over 60 years old, or persons receiving SSI). The maximum benefit to assist with electric bill payments will be \$600 per household.

Closed Session:

On a motion by Mr. English, the Board went into executive/closed session to discuss the following confidential business:

Item #1 – Valerie M. Hart, Family Services Specialist II, presented to the Board for approval, the adoption of one child in Foster Care, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(4)

The Board certifies that only the items outlined in the motion for executive/closed session were in fact discussed. On a motion by Mr. English, the Board exited closed session.

Item #1 – On a motion by Mr. English, the Board approved the adoption.

Recruitment Update:

Due to a resignation, there is one vacant Family Services Specialist II (Adult Services/Adult Protective Services) position. Applications are currently being accepted.

Due to a resignation, there is a vacant Benefit Programs Specialist II position. A candidate is scheduled to start on July 8th.

Due to a competitive demotion and an approved FY 2025 position, there are two vacant Family Services Specialist III (CPS) positions. An internal candidate has been promoted and will begin on July 8th. Interviews are scheduled today, 06/24 to fill the second vacancy.

The FY 2025 approved position for Family Services Specialist III (In-Home) is currently being advertised.

Due to a promotion, there is a vacant Family Services Specialist II (In-Home) position. A current employee is being considered for a lateral transfer.

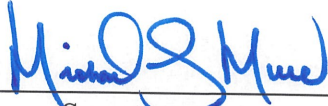
Due to a promotion, there is a vacant Office Associate II position. Reference checks are being completed.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the DSS/Procurement Conference Room. Mr. Muse recommended foregoing the July meeting. All Board members were in agreement.

The annual DSS Golf Tournament will be held June 26th.

As there is no further business, the Board adjourned.

Attest: 
Secretary


Chairman

Board Report for MAY 2024

Attachment A

I. New Applications	Current Month	Prior Month
	May-24	Apr-24
SNAP	392	435
PA	69	88
Medicaid	467	493
TOTAL	928	1,016
II. Undercare		
SNAP	5,317	5,296
TANF	247	244
Medicaid	17,423	17,845
TOTAL	22,987	23,385
III. Repayments		
TANF	\$0.00	\$3,581.98
SNAP	\$2,124.87	\$3,930.05
Day Care	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$2,124.87	\$7,512.03
IV. SNAP Issued		
Household	4,911	4,900
People	11,966	11,931
Amount	\$2,062,462.00	\$2,067,005.00
Fuel/Crisis/Cooling		
Application	0	0
Denied	0	0
Approved	0	0
Pending	6	0
PIPP Approved	42	53
PIPP Denied	26	30
PIPP Total	74	83

Prior Year	Prior Year	3 Yr. Average
May-23	May-22	24,23,22
393	313	366
88	66	74
336	313	372
817	692	812
5,340	4,643	5,100
264	247	252
17,977	15,708	17,036
23,581	20,598	22,388
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$1,485.29	\$2,508.39	\$2,039.50
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$1,485.29	\$2,508.39	\$2,039.50
4,872	4,411	4,731
11,727	10,809	11,500
\$1,996,311.00	\$2,528,924.00	\$2,195,899.00
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0
N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A

Please note that data is pulled from Data Warehouse system of the Fusion page from the state of Virginia.

Submitted by:

Cynthia Mabery, Benefit Programs Supervisor