

Regular Session, February 3, 2014 9:30 a.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Appointments

Parks Advisory Committee	149	02/03/14
Service Block Grant Advisory Board	149	02/03/14

Awards

Certificate of Commendation to Public Health for Re-Accreditation	148	02/03/14
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Closed Session

To Consider Qualifications, Competence, Performance of an employee	151	02/03/14
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Finance

Grant an Easement to Piedmont Natural Gas	149	02/03/14
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Social Services

Mid-Year Budget Outcome Adjustments for FY 2013/14	149	02/03/14
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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Randy Isenhower and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker, Lynn M. Lail and Barbara G. Beatty.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Managers Dewey Harris and Mary Furtado, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Vice-Chair Randy Isenhower offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of January 21, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes recognized the press present – Sharon McBrayer and the new Managing Editor of the ONE, Cody Dalton. She also recognized Sherry Butler, Chairman of the Catawba County School Board.
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda: None.
7. Presentation:
Prior to asking all the commissioners to join her at the podium, Chair Barnes stated she was delighted to have Commissioner Lail at the meeting. The remaining commissioners came forward to present Doug Urland, Jennifer McCracken, Kelly Isenhour, Cindy Bowman and Martha Knox with a Certificate of Commendation to recognize Catawba County Public Health for recently receiving re-accreditation from the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board. Public Health completed a rigorous accreditation process which included self-assessment thorough compilation of evidence, on-site visits and facility inspection, staff interviews and final evaluation.

Commissioner Beatty, who sits on the State Accreditation Board, said she was very proud of Catawba County Public Health's presentation to that Board.

- 8. Appointments.
Chair Barnes recommended the appointment of James Arthur Rogers, Jennifer Townsend and Mylo Lor to fill unexpired terms on the Parks Advisory Committee. Mr. Rogers' and Ms. Townsend's terms will expire October 6, 2016 and Ms. Lor's term will expire October 6, 2015. Chair Barnes also recommended the reappointment of Deborah Buchan and Paul Beatty to this Committee and these terms will expire October 6, 2016. Commissioner Lail recommended the appointment of Jennifer Lindsay for a first term to succeed Rhonda Stikeleather on the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board. Ms. Lindsay's term will expire June 30, 2016.

Chair Barnes stated that these recommendations came in the form of a motion which carried unanimously.

- 9. Departmental Reports:
 - a. Finance:

Finance Director Rodney Miller came forward and requested the Board approve a Grant of Easement to Piedmont Natural Gas for the purpose of installing a natural gas pipeline across County property located on Highway 70. Catawba County owns a 2.37 acre tract of land on Highway 70. A building on the property is leased to the Employment Security Commission. Piedmont Natural Gas requested an easement across this property to increase its capacity for providing natural gas services in that area of the county. The easement is located along the eastern edge of the property and adjacent to a parking area. Piedmont Natural Gas has offered the sum of \$52,100 for the easement, based on the current tax value of \$158,734 per acre. After a site visit, there were no concerns with the location of the easement and there are no plans to expand the current building or parking area. The building was constructed in 1965 and is in need of some energy efficiency upgrades. Staff plans to use these funds to make those improvements following an energy audit of the building. Vice-Chair Isenhower made a motion to approve this easement and appropriate the \$52,100 for energy efficient upgrades to the building. The motion carried unanimously. The following appropriation applies:

Leased Buildings - Maintenance & Repair	110-440154-842510	\$52,100
General Maintenance - Miscellaneous Revenue	110-440104-680100	\$52,100

- b. Social Services

Social Services Director John Eller came forward and requested the Board approve a set of mid-year budget outcome adjustments for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for Social Services. Social Services begins its outcome process each fall, well before its budget is finalized. Often times it will have to make outcome adjustments and take those before the Social Services Board for approval to forward to the Board of Commissioners. The reasons for revisions include having outcomes that are unrealistic, due to not having enough information at the time they were set, and changes in State/Federal policy.

These changes have minimal impact as they are due to mental health Managed Care Organization changes or realized differences in original estimates. Social Services' mission remains unchanged: to strengthen, with dignity and respect, the quality of life for all citizens through supportive services and advocacy. Below is a summary of the outcome changes:

Child Support: This outcome has historically been measured as a point in time percentage. If the percentage included in the outcome was met for one month during the fiscal year, it was considered achieved. Staff recommended the outcome be measured as an average as opposed to a point in time. It would be necessary for staff to maintain the average for the entire year, which is more in line with what is trying to be accomplished in establishing orders for Child Support. Due to the change in the way in which the information is being calculated, it was recommended that the percentage be reduced from 89.5% to 87.25%. Staff reports this will be a challenging outcome, and is currently determining best practices that can be implemented to assist in increasing the number of cases under order. **Change:** To assure that children are financially supported by both parents, 87.25% (reduced from 89.5% in the original outcome, and is 5,996 of 6,872) of the children who need a

child support order for support will have one during FY 2013/2014 as compared to similar counties average of 85.04% and the statewide average of 84.69% (reduced from 83.47% in the original outcome).

Permanency planning: Child welfare social workers and supervisors made a commitment to improve the outcomes for families involved with in-home services by holding Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings for parents such that they show improvement in being able to keep their children safe in their homes. That is still the intent of the outcome; however, the way the original outcome was worded makes the intent unclear, reading as though closing the case in nine months equals safety and all parents will be available and willing to participate in a CFT. The current outcome reads, "To keep children safe, strengthen parent engagement, identify supports and mutual understanding of expectations, 70 percent (133 of 190) of all families with children found to have been abused, neglected and/or dependent during Fiscal Year 2013-2014, will participate in a Child and Family Team meeting within 60 days of case decision and will demonstrate positive parental behaviors which assure safety of children in their homes, as measured by case closure within 9 months." **Change:** The outcome will read, "To promote keeping children safe, strengthen parental engagement and behavior, identify supports and provide a mutual understanding of expectations that expedites case closure, 70% (56 of 80) of all families with children found to have been abused, neglected and/or dependent during Fiscal Year 2013-2014, will participate in a Child and Family Team meeting within 60 days of a finding of abuse/neglect/dependency, and will demonstrate improved parental behaviors (as measured by the Child and Family Case Plan and Strength and Needs Assessment) to establish case closure within 12 months."

Medicaid Transportation: Social Services provided a total of 23,669 trips during FY 2012/2013 and expects this trend to continue in the current fiscal year. Staff requested to increase the number of trips listed in the outcome from 23,000 to 24,000. During the November 2012 outcomes planning process, information regarding the number of unduplicated individuals was added to the outcome. Counting unduplicated individuals is a process staff has worked to refine using in-house databases. During FY 12/13, Social Services provided Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) to 1,890 unduplicated individuals, based on actual service provision as opposed to the estimate used in outcomes planning. Based on the actual number of unduplicated individuals receiving NEMT services, staff requested to reduce the number of unduplicated individuals from 2,300 to 1,890. In addition, it is important to note that reports for the current year indicate no increase in the number of Medicaid recipients in Catawba County. **Change:** Assist Medicaid eligible Catawba County citizens in accessing medical service by arranging and/or providing 24,000 trips (increased from 23,000) to an estimated 1,890 unduplicated individuals (reduced from 2,300) during FY 2013/2014. (A trip is measured as a round trip.)

Outpatient Services: The current outcome reads: "In order to enhance and maintain family functioning, 90% (approximately 405 out of 450) of the children and adolescents will show a significant decrease (at least 3 points) in their Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System score, used to determine intensity of services, resources required, and duration by assessing multiple dimensions (risk of harm, functional status, co-morbidity, recovery environment, resiliency and treatment history, acceptance and engagement) by FY 2013-14". **Change:** The outcome will read, "To improve family functioning, 88 percent (396 of approximately 450) of children and adolescents served will demonstrate improvement (at least a 10 point decrease in at least one domain - Role Performance, Behavior Towards Others, Moods/Self-Harm, Substance Use, Thinking) on the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale after six months or upon completion of all outpatient treatment services during Fiscal Year 2013-14."

Intensive In-Home Services: **Change:** In order to enhance and maintain family functioning and increase the probability of child/adolescent remaining in the home, 93% (approximately 51 of 56) of the children served will show a significant decrease (at least 2 points, reduced from "at least 3 points" in the original outcome) in their Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS) total score, used to determine intensity of services, resources required, and duration by assessing multiple dimensions (risk of harm, functional status, co-morbidity, recovery environment,

resiliency and treatment history, acceptance and engagement) after 6 months of service or upon completion of services by FY 2013-14.

ACT Day Treatment: Change: To increase appropriate social, emotional, and behavioral functioning in a school setting and to enhance student potential for academic success, 85% of children attending day treatment (33 of 38) will show a significant decrease (at least 2 points, reduced from “at least 3 points” in the original outcome) in their Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS) total score, used to determine intensity of services, resources required, and duration by assessing multiple dimensions (risk of harm, functional status, co-morbidity, recovery).

Chair Barnes confirmed that there were still intensive in-home services provided and many of the changes were related to mental health changes – Vice-Chair Isenhower stated there were many more changes to come with mental health services. Vice-Chair Isenhower asked if there were outcomes regarding the collection of child support and Mr. Eller indicated that this was the case and the collections were tracked.

Chair Barnes then asked Mr. Eller to explain CABA – and he explained that this meant Critical Access Behavioral Health Agency – which Catawba County has both Family Net and Catawba County Behavioral Health and many entities across the state sought advice and guidance from these CABAs.

Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve these outcome revisions. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Attorney’s Report: None.
12. Manager’s Report: County Manager J. Thomas Lundy requested the Board consider moving into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment of an individual public officer or employee. He did not anticipate any action upon returning to open session. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to move into closed session pursuant to General Statute as stated above. The motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into Closed Session at 10:00 a.m.
13. Adjournment. The Board returned to open session. No action was taken. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. The motion carried unanimously..

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk