

**Economic Services Committee Minutes**  
**December 12, 2006**

The Economic Services Committee met on Wednesday, December 12, 2006 at the Wake County Human Resources Building. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 and we all enjoyed Christmas refreshments prior to going into our various sub-committees. After approximately 45 minutes, the group came together to present the various policy updates presented by the State staff.

**Medicaid:** Marjorie Morris announced that the Transfer of Assets policy was coming back to the January meeting with hopefully the last revisions before implementation. DMA has decided to stop payment to Level 1, 2 and 3 therapeutic group homes, and she referred us to a Dear Director Letter dated December 15, 2006 for details.

Bill Horne, Co-Chair of the Medicaid sub-committee reported one policy change to MA 3230; i.e., babies born to illegal (undocumented) mothers are no longer considered as an automatic newborn, but must apply and be approved as a regular Medicaid case. The effective date of this change has not yet been established as DMA wants to inform the providers in advance of the change. A motion was made by Vicki Hendrick of Davidson County and seconded by JoAnn Stephens of Columbus Co. to approve this policy which was then approved by the entire committee.

Dora Boissy of DMA Program Integrity reported collections of \$769, 291 year to date, with Jackson, Catawba, and Union counties as the top 3 collecting counties.

**Special Assistance:** Brenda Porter reported that Change Notice 02-06 for the SA Manual had been added to the on-line SA manual updating SA-5000, SA-5100, SA-5200, SA-5300, SA-5400, SA-5500, SA-5600 and SA-5700. These were all changes implemented by DAAS Administrative Letters back to April, 2005 relating to SA/IH policy. This change also referenced that when there is a rate increase in the Adult Care Home Cost of care, this automatically increases the maximum payments for SA/IH care. DAAS Administrative Letter 06-16 was issued with instructions for a rate change from \$1118 to \$1148 for Adult Care Home with no change in the personal needs allowance. This change also referenced the impact of this change on budgeting for SA/IH cases effective January, 2007. DAAS Administrative Letter 06-17 was issued with instructions for the annual Social Security/VA COLA increase. Although mostly automated, the SA/IH cases will have to be updated manually.

Brenda also reported that as of November 30, 965 in-home slots had been filled and that 90 had been filled within the past two months, demonstrating the largest growth rate since the program had started. She also reported that a SA/IH training schedule had been sent out in a Dear Director letter dated December 8 indicating that state wide training had been planned with 5 sites across the state. The training is for both Income Maintenance workers and Adult Social Workers and the training will be presented by Brenda and the APR's. Training sites are in Morganton, NC at Western Piedmont Community College

on January 9, Craven County DSS on January 12, Osterneck Auditorium on January 16, Stanley County DSS on January 19 and at the Person County DSS on January 26. Counties should register as soon as possible.

Brenda plans on sending draft material on SA ACH Special Care Unit policy, hopefully in time for the January ESC meeting.

**Work First:** Betty Barnes, Co-Chair of the Work First sub-committee announced that the sub-committee had recommended approval of the new 2007 Work First goals. Robin Register explained that the goals for 2008 will be issued earlier next year, and that Family Support and Child Welfare Services section of DSS had decided to drop the Benefit Diversion goals for 2007. Robin reported that actual numbers were calculated by Hank Bowers using the same method as last year; i.e. he used the standard growth potential to project. She stated that if counties cannot meet their goals they will have to explain what circumstances impacted them from reaching it, and the state will take that into account. Dale Moorefield of Forsyth Co. made the motion to approve the goals, and Gloria Hill of Wayne seconded it. The motion was approved by the entire committee.

Work First will be hosting a meeting on January 4 in the Albemarle Bldg. at 10:00 to discuss training needs. ESC members are encouraged to attend.

Denise Shipman of WF Program Integrity reported collections of \$29,774.22 for the month of November, 2006 with Mecklenburg, Wilson, Wake, Columbus and Vance counties as top collecting counties.

**DSS:** David Prince presented information regarding E&T and CIP. David presented the following E&T recommendations—not approved by anyone at this time but will be presented to another committee this afternoon: (1) Only serve clients between the ages of 18-40 with a recent connection (within 12 months) to the workforce, with a HS diploma or GED; may be an ABAWD, or a non-ABAWD. These individuals may go to work quicker, which is the goal; or (2) work with ABAWD's only; or (3) reduce the number of E&T counties from the current 81. How to decide who? ESC, Community colleges and the counties to help make the decision; and (4) realign the Career Start counties.

David has a question: How do we, the IMC's discuss E&T and Career Start with our clients?

David requested we e-mail him with suggestions for other changes. Per David, "we have money". [David.Prince@ncmail.net](mailto:David.Prince@ncmail.net)

David is also the contact person for Workman's Comp for Work First and Food Stamps. He stated that when the AIG office calls to audit, they are only interested in our clients. Let them audit. Also, when there is a work related injury the client must have a drug test immediately for workman's comp. A letter will be coming in January with instructions.

On December 1 a letter regarding CIP questions and answers was sent by DSS, and there is a concern that the letter is too specific with its situations and answers. Several counties wanted more “gray” areas in order to allow counties to use their money more wisely. Additionally, some counties feel there should be more administrative money included. Money is not always available for the county’s use when DSS is telling clients through the CareLine that it is. Counties also feel that the hours for taking applications for CIP should follow the Alexander policy.

Discussion revealed that ESC has in the past (January 2005) had a work group to make suggestions regarding CIP issues and nothing has come from it. Someone suggested that it had died in the Director’s Association Committee. David will take these concerns back to Jane, but it appears that we must adhere to the December 1 letter as it is Federal regulation. The letter was generated from questions from the HelpDesk.

Nancy Reiner, Co Chair of the Food Stamp sub-committee reported that they had discussed and recommended approval of the following food stamp sections: 120 revising the annual requirement of the civil rights training, 125 updating address for filing complaints, 320, 345, 400, 450, 500 regarding time frames for reports, 800, 805, 815, 820, 855, 865 regarding lottery proceeds and allowing for a lottery interception with no notice sent to the client and no appeal rights. A motion was made to approve these sections by Judy Locklear of Hoke County and seconded by Doretta Gibson of Nash County. The changes were approved by the entire committee.

Sheila Dorsett with Program Integrity reported collections for November to be \$276,672. They have a new category of NC Education Lottery collections. She advised workers to check their files to block and unblock according to the agreement.

The Executive Session was called to order by the Chair. There were minor corrections made to the November committee minutes and a motion was made by Betty Barnes of Johnston and seconded by Doretta Gibson of Nash to approve them with the corrections. There was no old business.

Under new business, Connie Dixon of Lenoir County asked how other counties were handling voter registration duties. Ideas were exchanged and issues were discussed. Bill Horne has some Medicaid issues relating to policy and procedures which he will discuss with DMA. Members are encouraged to e-mail their concerns to their specific sub-committee co-chairs who will in turn approach the state for assistance. DMA is starting a new LTC workgroup with participants from Onslow, Duplin, Catawba, and Wake. Betty Barnes reminded the group that the Work First meeting in January will pay for a family who would like to participate. Submit any names directly to Sara Mims.

A motion for adjournment was made by Wayne Co. and approved by all. Our next meeting will be in the same place on January 10, 2007.

Respectively submitted by Connie M. Melville