

## **ECONOMIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2006**

The Economic Services Committee held its monthly meeting on September 13, 2006 at the Wake County Department of Social Services. The committee members provided refreshments to celebrate Elva Quinn's retirement. A certificate was presented to Elva thanking her for her many years of service.

At the conclusion of the subcommittee meetings, the following information was shared with the entire committee:

Dora Boisy shared the Medicaid Collections Report. The question was asked if clients who have food assistance or Medicaid overpayments get letters from the state or if the counties are required to mail them. This will be looked into. Bill Horne reported for the Medicaid subcommittee. He said that the new citizenship and identity policy and procedures were going more smoothly than had been anticipated. Most of the larger counties have on-line vitals. He reminded us that the mother's copy of the birth certificate is not acceptable. The subcommittee recommended approval of change XX-06 for Family Planning Waiver (F/C 3265) which is effective 10/1/06 and approval of MAABD Change 20-06 and Family and Children's Change 14-06 which is also effective 10/1/06. Bill stated a provider must have a copy of the Medicaid card on file for audit purposes. He also reported that recipients don't have to use the same pharmacy anymore. There was a discussion about NCHC charge backs when there is no link (regarding insurance) between the IV-D system and the NCHC system. Connie Melville made a motion to approve the policy and Robin seconded. Policy was approved. Millie Brown questioned having to pay 75 cents for returned Medicaid cards in order to get them from the post office. Bill stated that he would contact DMA and follow up on this.

Jane Schwartz gave updates for DSS. She stated that Shelia Dorsett had e-mailed the collection reports already. Jane reported that the National Fraud Conference was a huge success. She reported that there will be a meeting to expand EPICS and SA and day care have been invited to attend. SA wants to be included in the meeting but day care is not sure. As it is now, day care has to pay the tab up front for overpayments and then collect the money from the client. The state has also discussed putting LIEAP overpayments in EPICS. Jane advised that if you have any feelings regarding day care overpayments going into EPICS, let the DCD know because they are saying now may not be the right time to make this change. Jane reported that \$79.9 million has been released to 14 states. North Carolina received a little more than \$2 million from the feds. The allotments were based on the high cost of fuel and average temperatures of 47 degrees in the winter. They are looking at options of how to disburse the money and one option is to designate it to go to LIEAP checks and another option is for the money to go into CIP. There is talk about changing the name of the "Food Stamps Program" to "Food Assistance". It will be the same program – just with a new name. Nancy Reiner reviewed the food assistance policy which the subcommittee recommended for approval. She reviewed the following

sections: 210, 220, 250, 263, 265, 280, 310, 320, 345, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 635, 705, 800, 815, 905, Appendix 3100, and Appendix 3300. Judy made a motion to approve the policy and Betty seconded. The committee approved the policy.

Sara Mims reported on behalf of the Family Support and Child Welfare Services section. The interim final rules are being published and they are waiting to see if there are going to be any changes. The DRA has brought about some changes for Work First that are effective 10/1/06. Policy for 10/1/06 has been drafted but is subject to change. They have tried to keep it broad to allow for flexibility. They will have 60 days after hearing from them to respond. There is \$19 million for grants to counties for innovative strategies that will impact the state. Hopefully a letter will go out next week with instructions regarding the grant. Increasing the workload participation rate is critical. Work first has had to implement new policy based on the new Medicaid policy for citizenship and identity. Sara reported that they are working on the next TANF state plan to go to the General Assembly in January 2007. She introduced a new consultant/trainer effective 10/1/06. Her name is Gretchen Williams and she has worked in both Johnston and Wake counties. Denise Shipman was not able to attend the meeting today because she had a baby girl so there were no collection reports today. Elva Quinn reported from the WFFA subcommittee. She reviewed section 103 on personal responsibility. Mandatory participants are now referred to as work eligible individuals. Elva reminded us that documentation is critical. She reviewed section 104B on substance abuse and mental health. A QSAP will now be referred to as a QP (Qualified Professional) in Substance Abuse. For work eligible individuals, the number of hours they're in treatment counts in the participation rate but the worker must verify it. There may have to be contact with these clients every day instead of every two weeks. She reviewed section 104D on family violence option and 107 which clarified that there are certain requirements that a minor mom who has been emancipated doesn't have to meet. She also reviewed section 118 which defined work requirements and services based on the DRA. She reviewed daily supervision and documentation. She stated that they can no longer take client's statement on some things. Community service may not have to be court ordered. Section 119 on two parent families incorporated some changes in wording. The subcommittee recommended approval of all policy. Bobby Ray made a motion to approve the policy and Dale seconded. The policy was approved.

Geoff Santoliquido reported for the Division of Aging and Adult Services. He provided handouts on the SA In-Home Expansion Project. They had 500 additional slots and counties made requests for the slots. There were 618 requests. 69 counties responded and 15 counties who were not previously participating were brought into the program. Only 13 counties are not participating at this time. SA rate increase will go into effect 1/1/07. He reminded us that current or former SSI recipients and current or former Medicare recipients are exempt from the citizenship and identity policy. He reported that there is a possibility that information from state vitals could be put into data warehouse. He reported that he had e-mailed the SA Manuals on Tuesday.

The Executive Session was called to order by Alvania. The meeting will be held at the Eastern Regional Center in Zebulon next month. Deborah made a motion to accept the

minutes from last month's meeting and Nancy seconded. The committee approved the minutes.

Under old business, we were reminded that they are trying to create a list of contacts from each county that could assist everyone in getting birth verifications for the new citizenship policy. Please e-mail the name of the contact person and their fax number to Alvania.

Under new business, Bobby Rainey is the new co-chair for the Work First subcommittee. We welcomed three new members to the committee: Hoke County, Rowan County, and Nash County.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn McDuffie, Wilson County.