

Powers and Duties of County Social Services Boards

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Power/Duty	Summary Description
Meetings/Chair	<p>The social services board (hereinafter “board”) must meet at least once per month, or more often if a meeting is called by the chairman.</p> <p>The board must elect a chairman from its members.</p> <p>If a consolidated human services board is the governing board for the agency, it must meet in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 153A-77. (quarterly).</p>
Appoint board member	Appoint third member/fifth member of board.
Hire director	<p>To select the county director of social services according to the merit system rules of the NC Human Resources Commission.</p> <p>Implied authority to supervise, evaluate, discipline and dismiss.</p>
Advise local officials	To advise county and municipal authorities in developing policies and plans to improve the social conditions of the community
Advise local officials/ Work First	One member must be appointed to serve as a member of the Work First advisory committee in electing counties.
Advise local officials	One member must be appointed to serve as a member of the local child protection team.
Consult with director and assist with planning budget	To consult with the director of social services about problems relating to his office, and to assist him in planning budgets for the county department of social services
Present/transmit budget	To transmit or present the DSS budget to the BOCC.
Approve voluntary contracts for county to provide services for a fee	Enter into contracts with any governmental or private agency, or with any person, to render services for a fee (such as home studies for adoptions).
Review records	To inspect and examine DSS records related to application for and provision of public assistance and social services. Board members must keep the information confidential.
Special attorney for social services	Approve BOCC appointment of special attorney for social services.
Extensions to Work First time limits	<p>Identify additional situations that may qualify as hardships.</p> <p>Appoint a committee charged with making decisions regarding applications requesting extension of time limits due to hardship (subject to state and federal limitations).</p>

Power/Duty	Summary Description
	Hear appeals from denials of extension requests.
Fraud in Work First	Determine whether there is sufficient evidence that a person who has applied for or received Work First assistance has committed fraud and, if so, what action the agency should take with respect to such fraud.
State-County Special Assistance applications	Approve or disapprove all applications for State-County Special Assistance
Fraud in Special Assistance	Determine whether there is sufficient evidence that a person who has applied for or received Special Assistance has committed fraud and, if so, what action the agency should take with respect to such fraud.
Medicaid applications	Approve or disapprove all applications for Medicaid.
Fraud in Medicaid	Evaluate fraud cases and decide whether to refer case for criminal prosecution.
Fraud in low income energy assistance	Determine whether there is sufficient evidence that a person who has applied for or received low-income energy assistance has committed fraud and, if so, what action the agency should take with respect to such fraud.
SSBG waiting list	Determine whether there will be a local waiting list policy for social services funded under the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and, if so, adopt such a policy.
SSBG eligibility	Decide whether the county will use the declaration method of eligibility determination rather than the verification method for SSBG-funded services for which eligibility is based on family income.