



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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News Release

Commissioners Take Steps to Consolidate Human Services

November 20, 2012, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday took initial steps to establish a Consolidated Human Services Agency.

At a special meeting on Oct. 30, Commissioners directed Union County staff to begin the process of combining the Union County Health Department and Union County Department of Social Services into a Consolidated Human Services Agency with a separate Consolidated Human Services Board (CHS).

Before a CHS Board can be established, North Carolina law requires Union County to form a nominating committee comprised of members of the current Union County Health and Social Services boards. It is the nominating committee's responsibility to submit nominations to Commissioners to be considered for appointment to the new CHS Board. At Monday's meeting, Commissioners named Dr. Nancy Randall, Evelyn Blackley, Dr. Michael J. Johnson and James Struve (alternate) to the nominating committee.

The law stipulates that the CHS board have a minimum of 17 members and not exceed 25 members. The present boards of Health and Social Services have a combined total of 16 members. The County recommends the CHS Board have 17 members when established. In order to create a uniform staggered- term structure for the CHS Board, the law allows a member to be appointed for less than a four-year term. It further states that the CHS Board will fairly reflect the population makeup of Union County, will be made up of residents of Union County and will include four consumers of human services, eight professionals (psychologist, pharmacist, engineer, dentist, optometrist, veterinarian, social worker and nurse), two physicians licensed to practice medicine in the state, (one of whom must be a psychiatrist), one county commissioner and other persons, including members of the general public representing various occupations.

To aid the nominating committee, Union County will advertise the CHS Board positions on the County website, UCTV 16, newspapers and other avenues. Those interested in applying should request an application from the Union County Clerk to the Board Lynn West at 704-283-3853 or west@co.union.nc.us.

Applicants will be placed on the Feb. 18, 2013 Board of Commissioners' agenda. The Feb. 18 agenda will also include a resolution establishing the Consolidated Human Services Agency and

the CHS Board, along with applicable amendments to the personnel policies to meet federal guidelines.

In addition, commissioners on Monday approved the creation of a human services director to oversee the Consolidated Human Services Agency and authorized County Manager Cindy Coto to approve an agreement not to exceed \$25,000 to retain a professional search firm to conduct a national recruitment for the position.

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