



HAYWOOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST

***Must be presented to the County Manager's Office
NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. FRIDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE MEETING***

DATE OF REQUEST: **August 6, 2015**

FROM: **Talmadge Stone "Stoney" Blevins, HCHSA Director and Assistant County Manager**

MEETING DATE REQUESTED: **August 17, 2015, 5:30 PM**

*Regular meetings: First (1st) Monday of the month at 9:00 am
Third (3rd) Monday of the month at 5:30 pm*

SUBJECT: **Proposed board rate increases for foster care families.**

REQUEST: **Approval of proposed foster care board rate increases.**
(What action are you seeking?)

BACKGROUND:

(Research and justification of proposal and need; Alternatives evaluated; Legal Basis: Outcome-What will be achieved and how will it be measured?)

Haywood County HHSA is committed to the licensing and retention of agency supported family foster homes as our first priority of placement if a suitable relative cannot be found. Although we value and freely utilize private child caring agency partners when necessary, our priority of agency supported homes is driven by the following factors:

- Private family foster homes are often located out of our county, which causes an additional disruption to a child who has been removed from his/her home.
- Private foster care is more expensive than agency foster care to the taxpayer, both in monthly payment as well as HHSA staff costs.
- Communication is often enhanced with agency foster parents, as they are more directly a part of the local service delivery system.

In order to recruit and retain the most qualified local foster parents, we propose to pay an enhanced family foster care board rate (see below). The monthly board rate is inclusive of a child's basic needs. The recommended standard state board rate in NC has not been raised in many years.

Payment Schedule for Family Foster Care (monthly board rate)

Age Group	Private Agency rate*	Proposed HHSA board rate	State Standard Board rate
0-5 years	\$1,433	\$575.00	\$475.00
6-12 years	\$1,564	\$675.00	\$581.00
13-18 years	\$1,638	\$775.00	\$667.00

*this rate includes the state board rate plus an administrative fee

Summary of Benefits

- Children in custody are allowed to remain in their own community with local families.
- HHSA foster parents receive a better board rate than the state standard rate, which is what most private agencies reimburse their licensed homes.
- The county realizes equal quality of care while also experiencing a cost savings over the private purchase of foster care.

Note

This proposal is for family foster care only. We will still utilize private agencies for therapeutic level of care, group care and overflow family care as needed.

*These proposed rate increases were vetted by the HCHHSA Board Finance Committee and approved for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners by the Haywood County Health and Human Services Agency Board of Directors at the July 21, 2015 meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

(How and when will staff undertake the action?)

September 1, upon approval of the Board of County Commissioners

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

(What is the cost? Where is the money coming from? Optional or mandated?)

Despite being higher than the standard state rate, the proposed board rate increases for locally licensed families will help the county realize substantial cost savings over placement through private agencies.

Also, staff costs will decrease by keeping increased numbers of foster children within Haywood County, reducing the need for staff travel time and expenses.

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENTS: YES X NO HOW MANY? 1 pdf

LIST: HCHHSA Board Bylaws and Operating Procedures (with visible edits for easy tracking)

PowerPoint Presentation: YES NO X

PERSON MAKING PRESENTATION AT MEETING:	<u>Talmadge Stone "Stoney" Blevins</u>
TITLE:	<u>Health and Human Services</u>
	<u>Director/Asst. County Mgr.</u>
PHONE #:	<u>828-356-2389</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>tsblevins@haywoodnc.net</u>

THIS SECTION FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received (Date/Time): _____

Our Vision

Haywood County HHS is committed to the licensing and retention of agency supported family foster homes as our first priority of placement if a suitable relative cannot be found. Although we value and freely utilize private child caring agency partners when necessary, our priority of agency supported homes is driven by the following factors:

- Private family foster homes are often located out of our county, which causes an additional disruption to a child who has been removed from his/her home.
- Private foster care is more expensive than agency foster care to the taxpayer, both in monthly payment as well as HHS staff costs.
- Communication is often enhanced with agency foster parents, as they are more directly a part of the local service delivery system.

In order to recruit and retain the most qualified local foster parents, we propose to pay an enhanced family foster care board rate (see below). The monthly board rate is inclusive of a child's basic needs. The recommended standard state board rate in NC has not been raised in many years.

Payment Schedule for Family Foster Care (monthly board rate)

Age Group	Private Agency rate*	HHS board rate	Standard Board rate
0-5 years	\$1,433	\$575.00	\$475.00
6-12 years	\$1,564	\$675.00	\$581.00
13-18 years	\$1,638	\$775.00	\$667.00

*this rate includes the state board rate plus an administrative fee

Haywood County HHS Foster Homes
Enhanced Payment Plan
Effective date: September 1, 2015

Summary of Benefits

- Children in custody are allowed to remain in their own community with local families.
- HHS foster parents receive a better board rate than the state standard rate, which is what most private agencies reimburse their licensed homes.
- The county realizes equal quality of care while also experiencing a cost savings over the private purchase of foster care.

Note

This proposal is for family foster care only. We will still utilize private agencies for therapeutic level of care, group care and overflow family care as needed.