

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH CAROLINA

DSS FACILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE

July 15, 2014
3:30 PM
4th Floor Conference Room

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rush called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 PM.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT DSS FACILITY

A. RICHLAND COUNTY STAFF

- Mr. McDonald stated that Richland County is required by State statute to provide space for the local DSS Office.
- State Statute Section 43-3-65 "Office Space and Facility Service to be supplied for County Department of Social Services" reads: The governing authorities of each County shall provide office space and facility services, including janitorial, utility and telephone service, and related supplies for its County Department of Social Services.
- There is 58% Federal operations reimbursement.
- Mr. Hixon stated that the expenditures for the past 5 years have been approximately \$1.3 Million.
- Mr. Hixon stated that 2 phases of floor covering has been completed in the building; a 3rd phase will be required.
- Recommend replacement of existing interior lights with LED lighting to improve energy efficiency and maintenance costs
- Continue replacement of HVAC Units
- Replace roof in 2019
- Test and upgrade electrical service switchgear to modern equipment in 2025
- Mr. Pearce requested a breakdown of the Federal reimbursement



Committee Members Present

Torrey Rush, Chair
District Seven

Julie-Ann Dixon
District Nine

Greg Pearce
District Five

Others Present:

Kelvin E. Washington, Sr.
(via telephone)
Tony McDonald
John Hixon
Paige Greene
Warren Harley
Chad Fosnight
Roxanne Ancheta
Brandon Madden
Daniel Driggers
Michelle Onley
Monique McDaniels

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH CAROLINA



DSS Facility Ad Hoc Committee
November 18, 2014
Page Two

B. REESE PALMER, RICHLAND COUNTY DSS DIRECTOR

- Mr. Palmer presented a snapshot of the economic impact of the Richland County Department of Social Services
- Mr. Palmer additionally presented a cost analysis that was compiled by the State Facilities Department.
- Total Medicaid benefits paid for 88,657 Richland County residents = \$113,197,446.89
- Monetary Value of ABC child care vouchers provided for 4,646 Richland County residents = \$11,443,376
- Total Annual Salary for 31 DHHS Employees = \$1,199,037.60
- Annual Salary for 190 DSS Employees = \$4,175,045 (Adding a 2nd Shift to accommodate caseloads)
- SNAP Benefits = \$213,108,105
- TANF Benefits for 77,829 Recipients = \$6,082,166
- Monetary Value of 84 Licensed Foster Care Services/Homes in Richland County = \$11,168,752
- Mr. Washington suggested an analysis of what services could be co-located with DSS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

A. REESE PALMER, RICHLAND COUNTY DSS DIRECTOR

- The following alternatives were presented: New County-Owned RCDSS Facility (\$9.65 Million); Rental of a New RCDSS Facility from Private Owner (\$900,900 Annually); and Renovation of Existing Building (not cost effective due to life cycle growth needs)

B. VISITATION CENTER – PAIGE GREENE, CASA

- Ms. Greene stated that the vision for the Visitation Center is “Fostering Futures” focusing on the older youth to prepare them to be adults
- CASA served 701 children in October

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH CAROLINA

DSS Facility Ad Hoc Committee
November 18, 2014
Page Three



NEXT STEPS

A. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS: CURRENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS VS. NEW FACILITY

- Mr. Hixon and Ms. Ancheta met with several members of the State DSS Office. The State presented a drawing showing the configuration they desired.
- Air quality tests have not been taken, but mold samplings have been taken. The areas that tested positive have either been treated or removed.
- Mr. Rush requested examples of current facilities that Richland County DSS can use as a model

B. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 2nd at 2:00 PM.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM.