

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012 – 5:30 PM  
NCACC DISTRICT MEETING  
MAD BOAR RESTAURANT  
111 RIVER VILLAGE PLACE - WALLACE, NC  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Chairman  
Commissioner Jeannette Council, District Six Director  
Commissioner Kenneth Edge, NCACC President  
Commissioner Ed Melvin  
James Martin, County Manager  
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney

ABSENT: Jimmy Keefe, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Charles Evans  
Commissioner Billy King

Commissioner Jeannette Council, NCACC District Six Director, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (NCACC) BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Council provided the blessing and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Council recognized National Association of Counties (NACo) Director and past President Noah Woods of Robeson County, District Five Director Jerry Stephens of Robeson County, and NCACC President Kenneth Edge of Cumberland County. Commissioner Council also recognized NACo Director Billy King of Cumberland County and stated he was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Edge welcomed those in attendance and spoke briefly about the NCACC's goals setting process and how the feedback from county commissioners' meetings across the state with their legislative delegations will be used to guide NCACC staff as they work with state legislators to promote county interests.

Commissioner Council called on Zettie Williams, Chair of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Williams extended a welcome to all in attendance and provided opening comments.

Commissioner Council turned the meeting over to David Thompson, NCACC Director.

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA/INTRODUCTIONS OF STAFF

Mr. Thompson briefly reviewed the meeting agenda and introduced members of his staff.

3. INTRODUCTION OF SPONSORS

Mr. Thompson introduced and thanked the meeting's hosts and sponsors.

4. UPDATES FROM COUNTIES ON LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

Mr. Thompson called on representatives from the counties in attendance to provide updates on their legislative concerns and meetings with their legislative delegations. Chairman Faircloth reported for Cumberland County.

Chairman Faircloth reported that the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners conducted a special meeting with members of the Cumberland County legislative delegation on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Chairman Faircloth provided the following feedback on the NCACC's three key legislative issues for 2012 and other issues brought up during discussions with legislators.

Issue #1. State Budget: Increase County Lottery Funds and Restore Mental Health Funding  
County Impact:

1. lottery funds have been committed for debt service;
2. put in bind for projects already under construction;
3. Cumberland County and Board of Education have made financial commitments on capital projects totaling \$7 million annually which will continue for a couple more years before amount reduces;
4. Cumberland County has a \$ 2.6 million gap which the school system will have to cover from it allocation of the county sales tax which had previously been used for maintenance and other renovation projects
5. Cumberland County is struggling with how to approach and has not yet determined its mental health funding level;
6. mental health patients make up 20% of the jail population and overwhelm the hospital emergency room;
7. do not know how MCO will work or what the composition of mental health boards will be;
8. concern regarding service levels and impact on county budget;
9. substance abuse is a run away problem;
10. mental health mechanism has turned into an insurance company;
11. definite need for mental health capabilities but need to target individuals who need the service more because there are people using mental health as a financial resource;
12. the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) soldier is a ticking time bomb;
13. do not forget the children of individuals with mental health issues or who have mental health issues of their own;
14. new mental health services set up in the 80s and a study committee needs to look at and update the mental health organizational structure

Legislator Feedback:

1. probably going to be an uphill fight but recognize the need and will work towards that end;
2. education lottery funds have to stay in the education arena however there should be flexibility of legislators to move lottery funds as events require within the 3 categories of: school construction, pre-k and elementary education, and need-based scholarships;
3. to take the funds and move into Medicaid should not happen
4. agree with all said and will take to leadership
5. counties have options, should be more in touch with their Boards of Education as to how money is spent;
6. agreement was to reallocate for one year but when parties changed, agreement does not appear to be binding
7. when parties changed, formulas for allocations for school construction were revamped and 50/40/10 ratios changed dramatically and funds were moved to close Medicaid gaps
8. a lot of dollars to be cut due to budget shortfalls
9. requested data on status of developmental disabilities population;
10. inquired regarding the triage process for mental health patients;
11. got to do something because we know mental health is not working;
12. state mental health under scrutiny of the federal government;
13. not hearing anything from DHHS but have talked with people at DHHS about projections so the committee will not be blindsided when it meets next week;
14. already a shortfall in Medicaid and a lot of money to be cut;
15. good news \$175 million over in projected revenue; bad news revenue offset by bad news of \$500-\$600 million worth of holds that have to be filled which suggests that there may be other rounds of cuts coming; leadership needs to find a way to be more balanced in its approach
16. short several hundred million on Medicaid side this year which projects into next year which will have to be dealt with;
17. federal has made it clear there may be some negotiations and extensions of time to deal with some serious issues in the mental health area regarding adult care homes;
18. 3 main factors on education side: last year budget did not plan for enrollment for universities but did for community colleges so enrollment numbers will have to be added in as well as financial aide, tuition increase and cuts in federal funding; issues with education jobs fund because stimulus money is gone resulting in a \$258 million gap paid for by LEAs and counties or by the state (states owes as an operational expense and has to find a way to budget); and \$50-\$70 million cuts to schools that was in the biennium budget, so do you take these on top of what has happened
19. realize that slight economic pickup will likely not impact counties;
20. hopefully state will have a few dollars if economy continues to pickup with most of money spent in education
21. 1915 BC waiver and combining LMEs should show about a \$300 million savings which is what program is designed for
22. support every county being represented for LMEs by either a commissioner or a commissioner-appointee

Issue #2: Allow Human services Administrative Flexibility

County Impact:

1. the concern of Mental Health, DSS and Public Health is being taken from under the State Personnel Act;
2. although some counties want to combine their boards, Cumberland County has no desire to change its human services administration;
3. Cumberland County would like the legislator's support of the goal to allow human services administrative flexibility as it may become relevant to Cumberland County at some point in the future;

Legislator Feedback:

None

Issue #3: Authorize County Broadband Public/Private Partnerships

County Impact:

1. Not an issue in Cumberland County;
2. Support as a goal to authorize county broadband public/private partnerships
3. counties want to have a seat at the table when the state addresses tax reform

Legislator Feedback:

1. Recognize need for public/private partnerships at federal level to be a world class nation

Other issues brought up during discussions:

A. Toll Roads Going Through Cumberland County

County Impact:

1. want the people and companies who live and work along the I-95 corridor to get a discount if tolls are imposed;
2. locals need to be able to purchase a card at reduced rates;
3. reality is tolls along the corridor will cost citizens of Cumberland County money;
4. can not see how charging residents of other counties money to use I-95 to come to work here will help the economy;
5. DOT estimates that 55% of traffic on I-95 is passing through Cumberland County;
6. money currently allotted to maintain I-95 should be spend on US 301 and other nearby rural routes rather than elsewhere in the state;
7. concern is that state could push responsibility for secondary road maintenance down to counties that have no money to handle

Legislator Feedback:

1. makes sense for all kinds of reasons that locals should get a discount;
2. we have other things of importance to this state than putting eight lanes on I-95
3. feds need to do what they are supposed to do and continue to keep up interstates

B. Resolution Adopted by Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to Request the Governor to Secure Funds to Pay the Unpaid Principal of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act Loan Made to the State of North Carolina

County Impact:

1. although the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners has not adopted a resolution to this effect, want legislators to be aware that the unemployment tax is being balanced on the back of employers

Legislator Feedback:

1. will take a lot of years to pay back and increasingly so unless legislators act to do what they are supposed to do;
2. this is a significant and major issue between \$2-\$3 billion and could get worse;
3. House Select Committee is looking at options but has not reported back
4. confident decision makers know small businesses can not pay back
5. will keep bearing on feds for forgiveness or some other ways to pay back so it is not passed onto small businesses

6. CLOSING COMMENTS/DOOR PRIZES

Commissioner Council provided closing comments and thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

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Candice H. White  
Clerk to the Board