

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 17, 2012 - 8:00 AM
CROWN COLISEUM BOARD ROOM – 1960 COLISEUM DRIVE
SPECIAL MEETING – PLANNING RETREAT
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Chairman
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Billy King
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager/Finance Officer
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Hank Debnam, Cumberland County Mental Health Center/Local
Management Entity Director
Sally Shutt, Communication and Strategic Initiatives Manager
Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

ABSENT: Commissioner Ed Melvin

Chairman Marshall Faircloth called the planning retreat to order.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner King moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Commissioner Edge

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

2. Presentation of Changes in the Mental Health Department Related to Continued Mental Health Reform and Divestiture of Services

Chairman Faircloth called on Hank Debnam, Cumberland County Mental Health Center /Local Management Entity Director, who provided a back brief on Mental Health Reform and the following update on the Local Management Entity (LME) and the Medicaid waiver entity or Managed Care Organization (MCO).

What Is the 1915 b/c Medicaid Waiver?

- Waiver: a request to CMS that provisions of the Social Security Act be “waived”

- State-wideness
- Fee for service payment requirements
- “Any willing and qualified provider”
- Expansion of PBH (Piedmont) pilot waiver (Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly, Union) implemented in 2005

What Is It?

- Combines services for all MH/DD/SA consumers into a single capitated funding model
- Waiver entity (MCO) assumes risk in managing services
- Combines authorization management of Medicaid, state and local funds at the community level

Mr. Debnam stated on April 1, 2011, the Cumberland County Mental Health Center/Local Management Entity received correspondence from the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that indicated the 1915 b/c pilot program would be implemented statewide. Mr. Debnam also stated the Secretary went to the state legislature and informed them that \$230 million would be saved within a five year period if all counties were involved in the statewide Medicaid waiver project. Mr. Debnam stated the following eligibility criteria had to be met on April 1, 2011.

Medicaid Waiver Criteria as Defined in the Request for Applications (RFA): 4/1/11 Minimum Requirements

- Medicaid eligible population (age 3 and up) of 70,000 (Cumberland had 51, 272)
- Catchment Population: 300,000 by July 2012 (Cumberland had 324,225) and 500,000 by July 2013 (Cumberland County would not have 500,000 by July 2013)
- Fully divested of all State/Medicaid- reimbursable services (Cumberland County was still providing some services as were other single-county programs)
- Cannot serve as legal guardian for any consumer of Medicaid or state funded MH/DD/SA Services

Key Legislation

- HB 916 was approved that mirrored information detailed in the RFA issued April 1, 2011 with a due date for applications of May 20, 2011.
- The Legislation further established that counties are not financially liable for over-spending or cost over-runs.

Mr. Debnam stated there were very few LME's at that time that qualified, including Cumberland County, and there were only three options: 1) meet the qualifications based on the numbers, 2) merge in order to meet the numbers, or 3) develop an interlocal agreement. Mr. Debnam stated Cumberland County LME entered into an interlocal agreement with Guilford, Durham and Johnston counties, with Guilford County later backing out and merging with Sandhills LME.

Mr. Debnam stated the combined counties of Cumberland, Durham and Johnston met the MCO qualifications and were counted as a single-county coalition.

Benefits of 1915 (b)/(c) Waiver

- Predictable Medicaid Costs
- Maintains public infrastructure to manage MH/DD/SA services
- Goal: High quality standards/consumer outcomes
- Savings remain with waiver site and can be reinvested back into services
- Ability to size provider network to best meet consumer needs

What Does This Mean for CCLME?

- The Durham Center and Wake LME will merge into one entity effective July 1, 2012.
- Cumberland County LME has partnered with Durham and Johnston Counties, with the corporate office of the Managed Care Organization (MCO) being in Durham.
- The MCO will be serving a four-county region that encompasses a population of almost 1.7 million residents, with about 186,000 Medicaid-eligible citizens/subscribers with the MCO receiving a per member/per month rate which should be available May 2012.

Mr. Debnam stated Cumberland County LME will retain its service provider contracts for the first year and in the second year service providers, will have to meet certain requirements that have yet to be established. Mr. Debnam also stated LME functions will have to be balanced with MCO functions, and the hope is that the public MCOs will be successful because there are private MCOs that would like to take over this market.

Further Details for Local Sites...

- Proposed model for the MCO:
 - Corporate Office for the MCO will be located at 4600 Emperor Drive in Durham.
 - Each LME (Cumberland, Durham, Johnston and Wake) will have a satellite office in their respective county.
- Each County will have the following staff in their County for the MCO:
 - Provider Network Account Specialists (licensed and non-licensed staff)
 - Care Coordination- MH/SA (licensed staff) Care Coordination-MH/SA (licensed staff)
 - IDD Care Coordination (QDDP)
 - Network Administrator for MIS
 - Medical Director
 - Administrative Support
- Each LME will have the following staff in their County for the MCO:
 - Community Relations Specialists:
 - Housing

- System of Care
 - Court System (Adult and Juvenile)
 - Jail/Detention Center
 - Others as defined by Community Needs
- Each LME will have the following staff in their County for the MCO:
 - Geriatric Specialists
 - Masters Level
 - Bachelors Level
 - IDD Access Specialists
 - CCNC Liaison
 - Hospital Liaison
 - Other positions based on LME needs

LME-MCOs and “Go-Live” Dates

Piedmont Behavioral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alamance/Caswell • Five County • OPC 	Went Live in 2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2011 • January 2012 • April 2012
Western Highlands Network	January 2012
East Carolina Behavioral Health	April 2012
Sandhills Center/Guilford	July 2012
Smoky Mountain Center	July 2012
TDC/Johnston/Cumberland/Wake	January 2013
Eastpointe/Southeastern Regional/Beacon Center	January 2013
Southeastern Center/Onslow-Carteret	January 2013
CenterPoint Human Services	January 2013
Pathways/MH Partners/Crossroads	January 2013
Mecklenburg	January 2013

Timeline

- Cumberland County LME must be fully divested of all clinical/medical provider services no later than June 30, 2012.
- In addition Guardianship, Juvenile Court Outreach Services and the PATH (Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) must be divested no later than June 30, 2012.

In response to a question from Commissioner Keefe, Mr. Debnam stated he lobbied for the Community Relations Specialist for the detention center, and although the job description is a work in progress, this position will serve as a liaison between the MCO and the county detention center. At the request of Chairman Faircloth, Mr. Debnam explained the Crisis Intervention

Team (CIT) program and spoke to the number of law enforcement officers whose training resulted in jail diversions for non-criminal activities because of their ability to identify and handle individuals with mental illnesses. Commissioner Council stated she would like to have the CIT training included as part of the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET). Board members concurred. Mr. Debnam spoke to the LME's partnership with the military and a recent domestic violence strategic planning session he attended.

Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager, advised that county management has a meeting scheduled with Mental Health staff to review financial details associated with the change as there will likely be major budgetary impacts and financial changes. Ms. Cannon stated details will be provided during the upcoming budget process.

3. 2011-2012 Strategic Plan Update

Chairman Faircloth called on Sally Shutt, Communication and Strategic Initiatives Manager, who provided the following highlights of the 2011-2012 Strategic Plan update for achievements from September 2011 through December 2011. Ms. Shutt called attention to the detailed report as contained in the agenda packet.

GOAL 1: Ensure a safe and healthy community by providing needed services to our citizens in a timely manner.

Objective 1: Assist with reducing youth crimes and gang involvement by providing youth development program opportunities.

- Collaboration between county HR and Parks & Recreation
- NC State federal grant for Fostering Youth Educational Stability (YES) project (Partners include CCS, DSS, Mental Health, court system and others)
- Teens Making a Change – CommuniCare & Mental Health
- 4-H
- Library

Objective 2: Assist with efforts to reduce crime by repeat offenders.

- Mental Health to fund jail coordinator position
- Day Reporting Center will no longer fall under Criminal Justice Partnership Program after July 1 and will go out to bid
- Court System interested in establishing a Veterans Court
- Detention Center
 - Bids in April
 - Construction to start in May
 - June 2013 projected completion date

Commissioner Keefe posed questions regarding Veterans Court. Ms. Cannon explained Veterans Court is a treatment court that would run over an eighteen month period to keep repeat veteran offenders out of the jail and provide them the treatment they need. Ms. Cannon stated at present, the court system is running a Sobriety Court, a Drug Court and a Family Court. Ms. Cannon further stated the premise behind the Veterans Court is that a lot of veterans are

returning from combat with severe issues and getting in trouble with the criminal justice system/jail system. Ms. Cannon stated if treatment is provided, they can receive assistance with housing and become productive members of society. Ms. Cannon responded to questions about the grant funding and stated the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) no longer administers grants and if the grant is applied for and received, the court system would like to run the grant through the county's books. Ms. Cannon responded to additional questions and discussion followed.

Objective 3: Improve emergency response services to citizens.

- Code Red promotion continues
- CAD-to-CAD consolidation:
 - Backup site completed. Schedule finalized
 - Multijurisdictional steering committee
 - Waiting on MOU to be finalized
- FireHouse funds approved
- BDA funding approved

Objective 4: Promote a healthy community by providing educational, health and human services programs and resources to citizens.

- Mental Health
 - Crisis Intervention Training
 - Road to Resilience Grant
 - Patient Assistance program
- DSS
 - Family Justice Center partnership
 - Child First training
 - Reaching for Excellence and Accountability Program
- Community Development Grants
- Health Department
 - Citizen survey to be conducted for two months
 - Wellness Center
 - Rabies Clinics

Objective 5: Strengthen the County's green and energy-efficiency initiatives.

- Solid Waste purchased concrete crusher and is awaiting air-quality permit
- Crown installed low-energy light bulbs
- Cardboard recycling container at Agri-Expo Center and Crown

GOAL 2: Provide adequate infrastructure consistent orderly growth of a dynamic county.

Objective 1: Explore strategies to address the County's need for more office space, and ensure facilities are well-maintained.

- Inventory is 90 percent complete
- E. Newton Smith Center renovation is on target with HVAC work to begin this month; demolition is 90 percent complete
- Winding Creek Annex renovation construction timeline is four months

- HR is seeking location for training
- Veterans Services would like to move

Objective 2: Improve transportation services in rural areas and promote expansion of van, rail and air systems.

- Community Transportation expanded service for rural residents needing rides to work
- US Air to offer direct DC flights in March

Objective 3: Increase gateway and other beautification efforts to create a more aesthetically appealing community.

- Master Gardeners volunteered 8,800 hours in 2011; a \$176,000 value. Answered 400 calls, made 500 face-to-face contacts.
- Community Development helped 22 citizens and two investors with home repairs

Objective 4: Continue efforts to provide safe water to all citizens.

- Gray's Creek Water & Sewer District referendum failed
- Engineers expect to bid out Southpoint project in about 45 days

GOAL 3: Promote economic development by creating and retaining jobs, and providing career opportunities, quality education, cultural and recreational services.

Objective 1: Ensure effective economic development incentives and practices are in place to attract and retain business and industry.

- Two Golden LEAF grants for economic development
- Vander sewer project: RFQ responses received in late January
- Library purchased eight mobile computer labs with grant funds.
- Fall into Work Job Fair in October
- Library to host Job Fair in March
- Community Development: supporting affordable housing development at HOPE VI and seeking funds for Robin's Meadow Phase II (16 units for homeless)

Objective 2: Promote economic development through the preservation of natural resources, farmland and the county's agricultural industry.

- Cooperative Extension:
 - Using Working Lands Protection Plan to promote establishment of a permanent Farmers Market
 - Farmers Market saw 25 percent increase in vendor participation and 33 percent increase in income
 - Promoting programs for young farmers and others

Objective 3: Provide quality cultural and recreational services.

- Godwin Park ribbon cutting set for 10 a.m. on March 30
- Library program attendance totaled 38,542 for last six month of 2011

GOAL 4: Educate, inform and engage employees, citizens, elected and appointed officials through effective and efficient communications.

Objective 1: Increase citizen engagement as evidenced by increased applications for county boards and committees and attendance at public forums and meetings.

- Citizens Academy planned for four nights in May
- Institute for Community Leadership hosted on Oct. 18; graduation in April
- Animal Control implemented volunteer program
- Veterans Services town hall meeting
- Community Development meetings
- Various departments conducted outreach

Objective 2: Enhance communications systems and transparency so citizens can readily access information.

- Sanitation grade webpage upgraded
- Online job application
- Website redesign
- Tax Administration:
 - Website and form updates
 - Credit card payments accepted
- GIS upgrade progressing

Objective 3: Improve internal communications.

- Motor pool reservations on intranet
- HR intranet page has added registration process and training calendar; public HR webpage to launch after county redesign unveiled
- Personnel code rewrite is 50 percent complete
- HR-led committee completed draft of performance management policy and system. Draft now in review and approval stage. Training scheduled for April/May.

Objective 4: Develop and promote the County's strategic plan to employees and the public.

- DSS designated a Budget and Strategic Planning Manager whose new duties started January 1
- Cooperative Extension's 2012 work plan is due in March

Objective 5: Enhance collaboration between county government and other boards, committees and commissions.

- Meetings held with NC Legislative Delegation, City Council, Chamber of Commerce
- Animal Control Code went to City Council and will be coming back to Policy Committee

GOAL 5: Employ motivated, professional and well-trained personnel who offer excellent customer service with PRIDE.

Objective 1: Optimize service delivery through innovation, automation and technology to enhance current services and create new service opportunities.

- Electronic pollbooks in all precincts
- Tax Office working on automated annual listing forms, posted online extension request form, created system-generated reports

- DSS Call Center won state award
- RFID in all libraries by March, expanded hours expected
- Information Services:
 - Developing code enforcement application for Planning
 - Installed HR training software and damage assessment for GIS

Objective 2: Encourage citizen engagement and provide feedback opportunities through various outlets as it relates to service delivery.

- Department head contact signs created
- Online directory to go live with redesign
- DSS and Cooperative Extension have ordered detailed signage

Objective 3: Implement staff development and training programs that include classroom and online delivery methods.

- Child support identified the need for a department trainer
- HR purchased software to support online training
- Executive Training Academy
- Supervisory Training Academy
- Mental Health conducted staff training on divestiture
- Tracking and monitoring system completed

Objective 4: Recognize employees for their achievements

- Child Support established an “Employee of the Month” program with designated parking space
- County-wide Employee Recognition Program reintroduced with quarterly awards to be presented by commissioners

Objective 5: Explore competitive pay based on labor market analysis and update classification system.

- Study team is formulating study recommendations, writing the report and gathering labor market information
- Recommendations for new salary administration policy and procedures to be presented to county manager in February in conjunction with the proposed classification and compensation study results

4. Review of the County’s Projected Financial Position

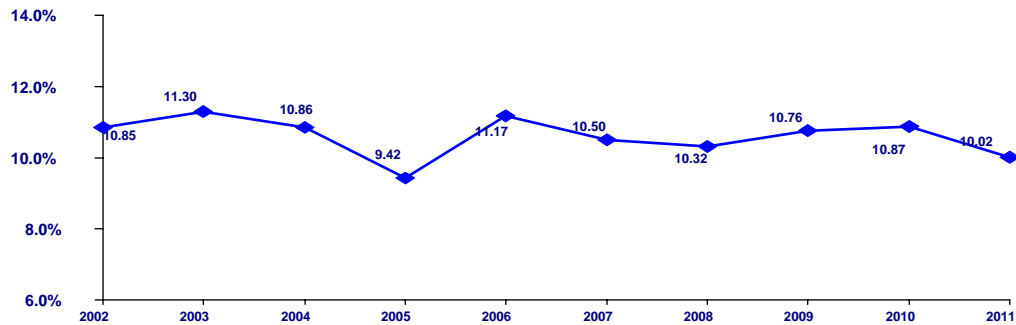
Chairman Faircloth called on Ms. Cannon who advised the purpose of the presentation was to give an update on the financial position of the county for the current fiscal year and to share with the Board considerations staff is currently aware of with regard to the upcoming budget. Ms. Cannon provided the following presentation:

FY2011 Results

- General fund’s, excluding MH, unassigned fund balance = \$28,777,130
 - Equals 10.02% of expenditures
 - Met County’s minimum unassigned fund balance policy of 10.0%

- .02% above the minimum = \$30,027 available for appropriation

Fund Balance-General Fund History



Economy

- The County continues to face some difficult budget issues
 - A continuing sluggish economy will limit revenue growth potential
 - State budgetary decisions may create new fiscal responsibilities for our County
- However, as of today, we are not in crisis mode

Commissioner Keefe asked whether the bond rating would be affected if the county were to incur new debt. Ms. Cannon stated she agreed the county should remain cautious, but more importantly, she did not know where recurring revenue would be identified to make a debt payment. Ms. Cannon also stated although the county is meeting the budget in most areas, it is not significantly exceeding the budget which limits any growth potential for new projects or any new initiatives.

Financial Highlights (Current Year Budget)

- Department expenditures are normal
 - No adverse trends at this time
 - Actual expenditures + encumbrances may reach 97% of budget at year-end
- Ad valorem taxes projected to be slightly more than budget
 - Last year collected 100.5% of budget = \$150.3M
 - FY2012 projected collections 101.7% of budget = \$154.8M
- Sales taxes appear to be stable and growing slightly
 - FY2011 collections 100.19% of budget = \$34.8M
 - FY2012 projected collections 100.85% of budget = \$35.1M
- Economic revenue indicators
 - Register of Deeds – on target for second year of growth
 - Decline started in FY2008
 - Inspections/permits – revenue continues to decline
 - Decline started in FY2008

FY2013 Budget

- Initially, department operating levels maintained at FY2012 levels
- No furloughs or salary reductions at this time
- Employee compensation/reclassification study nearing completion
- 401K 1% county contribution continues
- Health insurance contribution to remain at \$6,376 per employee
 - Cost savings from pharmacy and wellness clinic precludes increase

Major Considerations

- Funding of Detention Center Expansion
 - Pay-go construction
 - Additional personnel and operating
- Mental Health Divestiture
- Human Services revenue streams
- Parks & Recreation Capital Program
- Sales Tax Hold Harmless Agreement

With regard to funding of the detention center expansion, Ms. Cannon stated at the meeting of the Facilities Committee, the architect and construction manager provided a new construction schedule. Ms. Cannon stated originally the project was scheduled for completion sometime mid fiscal year 2014 which gave the county more time to accumulate tax funds segregated for the detention center expansion. Ms. Cannon further stated based on the current construction schedule, completion is for June 2013 which means staff needs to revise the construction funding schedule. Ms. Cannon stated staff may need to look at the balance sheet for other construction/renovation funds that have been assigned to make sure the county actually has the funds set aside for completion six or seven months earlier. Ms. Cannon also stated with the accelerated construction schedule, staff is working with the Sheriff's Office to assess the needs and impact on the upcoming budget.

With regard to Mental Health divestiture, Ms. Cannon stated there are significant budget and financial considerations associated with Mental Health Reform and staff will have to see what the new organization is going to look like in order to determine what the impact will be on the Mental Health transfer of over \$4 million per year.

With regard to Human Services revenue streams, Ms. Cannon stated the county is proceeding cautiously with federal and state revenue and has been made aware that Social Services revenue may be decreased next year in the TANF program. Ms. Cannon stated there is also overspending at the Department of Social Services (DSS) in the foster care program, the majority of which is county-funded. Ms. Cannon stated staff is working with DSS to minimize overspending in the current and upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Cannon further stated the Health Department could also be at risk for state losses.

With regard to the Parks and Recreation capital program, Ms. Cannon advised the Parks and Recreation Board unanimously approved the capital program at \$65 million and approved that it be submitted to the Fayetteville City Council and the Board of Commissioners for approval of a referendum. Ms. Cannon stated the proposal is to fund \$51 million from a general obligation

bond issue through a countywide referendum. Ms. Cannon also stated the Board of Commissioners would actually call the referendum, the recommended date of which is February 2013. Ms. Cannon further stated should the referendum pass, the Board of Commissioners would then have to create a countywide Parks and Recreation capital improvement district with the possible exception of Hope Mills and Spring Lake. Ms. Cannon stated recommendation for funding of the capital improvement district is through a 2.25 cent capital improvement tax for debt repayment. Ms. Cannon also stated the county has not received concrete numbers for operational costs and there is some thought that the operational side will have a positive impact because of user fees. Ms. Cannon advised the debt will be in the name of the county and on the county's books. Ms. Cannon stated she and her staff need to determine what impact the debt will have on the county's borrowing capacity and bond rating relative to projects on the current horizon. Ms. Cannon stated there will be a Parks and Recreation presentation at the March 1, 2012 meeting of the Facilities Committee.

Ms. Cannon responded to questions; comments and discussion followed. Ms. Cannon stated the Parks and Recreation facilities would have to become property of the county because if the county has the debt on the books, it would have to have the assets on the books. Commissioner Edge asked whether the Park and Recreation facilities would become property of the City of Fayetteville if they were annexed. Ms. Cannon stated this had not been discussed and a Memorandum of Understanding would need to be put together to document everyone's understanding of issues of this type. In response to a question from Commissioner Keefe, Ms. Cannon stated 65% of parks and recreation is in the City of Fayetteville and only 35% in the county. Commissioner Keefe noted the City of Fayetteville could call a bond referendum for parks and recreation within its city limits.

Mr. Martin spoke to the past merger and funding of county and city recreation. Mr. Martin stated it might be worthwhile for the city and the county to look at a method for funding recreation both in the city and the county that would allow for everything to be combined into a true city and county Parks and Recreation program. Mr. Moorefield advised the Board's creation of a countywide district could eliminate the current city/county divergence.

With regard to the sales tax hold-harmless agreement, Ms. Cannon stated the agreement that was entered into to mitigate the sales tax losses to the county based on municipal annexations will expire in June 2013. Ms. Cannon explained the terms of the agreement and stated sales tax reimbursements will amount to about \$5.8 million in the current year budget. Ms. Cannon stated the county's intent is to begin work with the municipalities to continue a new agreement under the current terms. Ms. Cannon also stated should the agreements not be renewed, it could impact next year's budget. Mr. Martin explained how the sales tax hold harmless agreement originated and stated the county will be in a major financial deficit if the municipalities do not agree to renew the agreement. Mr. Martin further stated should the Board decide to change the allocation method to ad valorem, the county would be at a great advantage in terms of realizing additional sales tax distributions.

Chairman Faircloth informed the Board about the requirement that the county place its obligations to future retirees on its financial statement. Chairman Faircloth stated the county has had to recognize the debt on its books and what it would cost to liquidate the debt on June 30th.

Chairman Faircloth stated the county has also had to estimate on an actuarial basis what the annual cost would be to fund its obligations to future retirees. Chairman Faircloth stated this poses an ever increasing expense the county may not be providing for on a current basis. Chairman Faircloth further stated he has asked Ms. Cannon to explain what the implications are to the future finances of the county.

The Board of Commissioners recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

5. Discussion of Committee Chairs Providing Reports at Commissioners' Meetings

Chairman Faircloth recognized Commissioner Evans who stated he would like for the chairs of the Facilities, Finance and Policy committees to provide a report at the following commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Evans explained this would better inform the public about issues coming before the full Board. Chairman Faircloth requested input from committee chairs.

Commissioner Keefe, who chairs the Facilities Committee, stated although he appreciates the reason for the request, committee minutes are posted to the county's website and the minutes provide more detail than a brief synopsis at a Board meeting could provide. Commissioner Keefe also stated he supports transparency and the information is available for those in the public who desire to find it.

Commissioner Edge, who chairs the Finance Committee, stated every citizen has a right to attend committee meetings should they so desire. Commissioner Edge also stated committee minutes are posted to the county's website and are also included in Board meeting agenda packets. Commissioner Edge stated he has a concern that committee reports during Board meetings could provide an opportunity for further discussion on matters the majority of the Board has supported and this discussion could then become controversial. Commissioner Edge also stated although he supports transparency and wishes the public would become more involved in their government, he did not see any advantage to committee chairs making reports at Board meetings.

Commissioner Council, who chairs the Policy Committee, stated although she understands the request, she has not gotten anything out of any committee chair reports she has heard and doesn't know how work at the committee level can be boiled down into a short report.

Commissioner Evans stated some citizens work and are therefore unable to attend committee meetings, and some citizens do not have a computer to access the committee minutes. Chairman Faircloth requested input from Commissioner King who stated although he was not against sharing information, he had not received any requests from the public regarding committee reports.

Discussion followed about stepping up the county's advertising or televising committee meetings as well as balancing the further sharing of information with the length of the Board meetings. Chairman Faircloth stated although the Board unanimously supports transparency, there does not appear to be a majority in support of committee chairs providing reports during Board meetings. Chairman Faircloth further stated should requests begin coming forward from the public, one option might be for the clerk to read the minutes of the committee meetings.

6. Discussion of Working with the City of Fayetteville to Increase Transit in Rural Areas

Chairman Faircloth recognized Commissioner Evans who stated although the county is not financially able to explore working with the City of Fayetteville to increase transit in rural areas at this time, he would like to have another study performed and presented to the Board in six months to see what rural areas, in addition to the western part of Fayetteville, would benefit from the use of a shuttle and working with the Fayetteville Area System of Transit (FAST) to provide transit services.

Chairman Faircloth asked whether the county had ever looked into working with the FAST. Mr. Martin stated a study in conjunction with the city and the county was conducted and the study looked more at the consolidation of the demand-specific human service related transit activities conducted by the county. Mr. Martin stated there was a recommendation to consolidate the county's services with the city's transit operation. Mr. Martin further stated his problem with the study was that the services the county was able to provide to the greatest number of people would be diminished and reduced because the county would pay more per-unit of service to the FAST.

Commissioner Evans stated he would like the study to determine where transit might be feasible in rural areas, the cost to the county, and what the advantages would be for citizens. Commissioner Evans further stated he would like a thorough study of the benefits and the pros and cons of having the county commit to working with the City of Fayetteville's FAST.

Commissioner Keefe asked Commissioner Evans to remove western Fayetteville from his request. Commissioner Evans agreed.

Commissioner Council asked Commissioner Evans if he would agree to ask staff to bring back the previous report as opposed to commissioning a new study, and to give the report to the new transit director. Commissioner Evans agreed. Consensus of the Board was to take another look at the previous report.

7. Discussion of County's Involvement with the Murchison Road Revitalization

Chairman Faircloth recognized Commissioner King who stated he was concerned about the revitalization of Murchison Road and realized he had taken some personal ownership of the matter. Commissioner King advised one of the goals of the strategic plan was to increase gateway and other beautification efforts to create a more aesthetically appealing community. Commissioner King stated Murchison Road is a gateway. Commissioner King stated he was not requesting money today, but would like a show of support from the Board for his efforts and for the worthiness of the revitalization of Murchison Road. Commissioner King also stated should there be a need for money in the future, he would like to know that the Board would give it consideration. Commissioner King stated the revitalization would move forward and acknowledged some of the parties involved. Commissioner King stated there was a firm belief that the I-295 area of Murchison Road and the area from Fayetteville State University to Rowan Street would see rapid development. Commissioner King stated the area of greatest concern was from Langdon Street to Country Club Drive.

Comments and discussion followed. Commissioner Edge stated the county's mission is to provide for economic development while being fiscally responsible. Commissioner Edge also stated the Murchison Road communities acknowledged that it was going to be difficult to do any type of economic development or revitalization until the crime was reduced to the point that people felt comfortable living and conducting a business in that area.

Commissioner Keefe stated he felt the revitalization of Murchison Road should in some way be a joint venture of the City of Fayetteville, the Public Works Commission and the county, and one of the first things needed is a specific plan that includes a series of community meetings. Commissioner Keefe further stated the city has more availability for funding than the county and without community buy-in and involvement, it is a dead issue.

Chairman Faircloth stated the Board appeared to be behind Commissioner King in his efforts and would give consideration when more was requested.

8. Discussion of Board of Commissioners' Electronic Agendas and Technological Upgrades

Chairman Faircloth stated he asked staff to begin looking into the Board's technology, to include automated agendas, and options that might be available. Candice White, Clerk to the Board, called attention to the information provided by Information Services regarding iPad tablets and other portable devices.

Commissioner Edge stated the first question for the Board to consider was whether all seven commissioners would commit to using the new technology in order to justify the cost. Discussion followed regarding iPad features, what iPads will support, print and wireless capabilities, and iPad's compatibility with Outlook and Microsoft Windows. Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director, demonstrated Notability for note taking on iPads and the iPad drop box. Questions and discussion followed. Mr. Abner stated one consideration of the Board would be whether they want Wi-Fi or cellular capability because the iPad is specific to the carrier.

Commissioner Keefe stated his preference was that iPads for commissioners come preloaded with policies, ordinances, and anything else that would be of use to Board members. Commissioner Keefe stated 16G may not provide sufficient memory and the Board should probably consider 32G. Chairman Faircloth stated the Board would probably benefit from a beginning class in the use of iPads.

Consensus of the Board was for staff to gather more information regarding iPad specifications, to include recurring expenses, and provide to the Board at its next budget meeting.

9. Discussion of the Board of Commissioners' Priorities

Chairman Faircloth advised the Board that he, Mr. Martin and Ms. Cannon met with the superintendent and finance officer for the Board of Education. Chairman Faircloth stated the county is currently in the first year of no funding agreement with the school system, and during

the meeting the superintendent and finance officer were told that barring anything unforeseen, the county would look to continuing the same dollar amount but not the same percentage amount into the next budget year. Chairman Faircloth also stated with regard to a new agreement, the superintendent and finance officer were told that the county would possibly look to that for next year's funding, but that there may also be a need to hold the line for a third year. Chairman Faircloth stated based what has been heard today, the county may need to press for a third year of holding the line at the existing level and perhaps looking to an agreement in the next budget year based on the third year's total tax revenue. Chairman Faircloth further stated that would put the percentage at 45% to 50%.

Commissioner Edge asked whether something could be written into the agreement regarding an adjustment should the county get other mandates handed down from the state. Chairman Faircloth stated he is hearing from Board members that they do not want to cut the dollars. Chairman Faircloth further stated nothing is final and basically everything is on the table until an agreement was signed. Discussion followed regarding enrollment numbers and percentages versus dollar amounts.

Chairman Faircloth opened the floor for other priorities. Commissioner Edge acknowledged the bleak financial situation and the county's commitment to the detention center expansion project, stated he hoped next year's budget time could include something for county employees. Mr. Martin stated county Human Resources is looking at a classification and pay study, and the hope is to find funds with which to begin implementation of the study. Mr. Martin stated the cost of implementation is not yet known and there is a question as to whether the study could be fully implemented.

Chairman Faircloth suggested that the Board hold another afternoon meeting in April.

Commissioner Evans spoke to monies the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce receives from the county. Chairman Faircloth stated this matter could be revisited as part of budget discussions.

10. Other Matters of Business

There were no other matters of business.

11. Wrap Up

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board