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Time Posted: _____
Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed: _____

**MINUTES
OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE
JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
DECEMBER 18, 2006**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in Work Session on December 18, 2006, at 4:00 pm, Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Board of Commissioners:
Brian T. McMahan, Chairman
Joe Cowan, Vice Chair
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Tom Massie, Commissioner
William Shelton, Commissioner
Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager
Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the work session is to discuss an adult day care program.

(1) **LOVE’S CHAPEL CHURCH:** Mr. Westmoreland stated that he has been informed that Love’s Chapel Methodist Church will be suspending the adult day care program around the first of the year due to lack of financial support and the Board needs to consider whether it should be assumed by the county. The church has agreed to allow the county to use its facilities for the program and has agreed to a two-year lease.

(2) **HISTORY OF PROGRAM:** Mary Barker, Executive Director, Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging, stated that she has been involved with the aging program since 1980. In 1981 Smoky Mountain Mental Health received a grant from the state as “start up” money for an adult day care program and was under its direction until 2002. The program was closed for approximately nine months until Love’s Chapel assumed the program in 2003. In the nine months that the program was closed, two or three clients were placed in long-term care facilities at a cost of approximately \$4,000 per month per client, the majority of which is paid by Medicaid.

(3) **PROGRAM DEMAND:** Helen Bryson, Director, Aging Dept., stated that the majority of aging programs are designed to keep seniors active, motivated, social, healthy, and off the “system”. The program is a valuable asset to the county and if terminated, some of the clients may be placed in long-term care facilities.

(4) BUDGET: Ms. Bryson has worked with the church and created a budget which reflects that the county will not need to contribute a large amount of funds. There are 11 clients currently enrolled and the church facility is certified for a maximum of 16 clients. She stated that through the Aging Dept. and its partnerships with other in-home agencies, enrollment would probably increase to 16. Institutional care is the most expensive and if seniors can be kept at home and outside the “system” it would save money for everyone. Mr. Westmoreland stated that last year the county contributed \$1.5 million to Medicaid.

Ms. Barker stated that block grants have been stable for the past 25 years and the Older Americans Act, a federal program, has been reauthorized for another five years. The Home & Community Care block grant consists of about 55% federal funding and 35-40% state funding and has been fairly stable over the years and continues to grow. She stated that the Home & Community Care block grant has received a \$4 million increase for the next two years.

Ms. Bryson stated that if the county assumes the program on February 1, 2007, the cost for the remainder of the fiscal year would be \$1,652.00. The budget includes transferring the current program employee to the county payroll. Mr. Westmoreland stated that funds could be transferred from the undesignated fund balance. The estimated cost for FY2007-08 would be approximately \$8,550.00.

(7) CURRENT FACILITIES: Mr. Westmoreland presented a slide show of the church facilities. The church was provided with a van through Duke Endowment and Ms. Bryson stated she is working on how to have the van transferred to the county if it assumes the program. The photos depict an outside sitting area, walking area, craft room, resting area with beds, handicapped accessible bathroom, dining area, and kitchen. At present the meals are catered by the high school and Mountain Projects; however, if the county assumes the program, food would be provided by WestCare Hospital.

(8) PROPOSED PROGRAM CHANGES: Ms. Bryson stated that at present the facility is open from around 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. She stated the hours would be expanded from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm if the county assumes the program. Further, the Dept. on Aging Caring Hands Respite program is being revised for in-home aid and the staff for that program would assist with the adult day care program.

(9) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS: Ms. Bryson explained that the number of clients is based on the size of the facility and staffing. She explained that an adult day health program requires a higher skill level of care and a nurse must be on staff at all times. The adult day care program requires 40 sq. ft. per client; adult day health is 60 sq. ft.; and, a combination of the two programs is 55 sq. ft. The design for the new Senior Center at the Webster Complex will need to be revised to include an additional 2,000 – 2,500 sq. ft. (\$150-\$175 per sq. ft.). However, if long-range plans include an adult day health program, then additional square footage must be considered. The footprint of the Senior Center would accommodate an additional 2,500 sq. ft.

The architect has not been given instructions to include an adult day care program in the design. Further, the issue of a kitchen facility must also be addressed because Mountain Projects has been unable to obtain funding for that purpose.

The Board will review the Senior Center plans during a capital projects work session and make a determination of how to proceed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Shelton moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman