



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 9.

DATE OF REQUEST: January 26, 2009

REQUESTED BY: Dr. Reta M. Shiver, Director, Department of Social Services

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Requesting Support for Modern Department of Social Services Facilities

BACKGROUND: The building at 810 South Walker Street was constructed in 1961 as a Nursing Home and was not designed for nor does it have adequate or appropriate space to serve as a DSS facility.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: The Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution supporting construction of a New DSS Building that provides privacy and adequate storage for files and records.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR MODERN
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Pender County Department of Social Services serves primarily low income families providing for basic needs of food, medicine, employment, child care, child and adult protective services, energy assistance, emergency assistance, foster care, adoptions, and transportation, among others needs; and

WHEREAS, ninety staff serve more than 12,000 individuals and families during the course of one year; serving an average 2,000 entries during a 20-day period; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina under NC General Statutes, Chapter 108A mandates the services and programs offered and NC General Statute 108A-80. Confidentiality of Records, requires that records are maintained and clients are served in a venue that offers complete privacy; and

WHEREAS, the building located at 810 South Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina, known as the Pender County Department of Social Services houses DSS staff who serve the low income and other families needing public assistance and other services; and

WHEREAS, the building located at 810 South Walker Street was constructed in 1961 as a Nursing Home and was not designed for nor does it have adequate or appropriate space to serve as a facility for the provision of DSS programs and services, to provided privacy for clients, or to provide adequate storage for files and records; and

WHEREAS, efficiency, effectiveness and quality in the provision of DSS programs and services is impeded because of the deteriorating building conditions, lack of privacy, and lack of adequate storage for files and records;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PENDER COUNTY recognizes the current DSS facility at 810 South Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina is deficient in many respects for the provision of DSS programs and services including but not limited to providing for sufficient staff and client work space, providing for client privacy, and providing for adequate storage of files and records; and that the Board advocates, supports and recommends efforts to develop financial resources from a variety of sources to assist in funding construction of a new, modern DSS facility to serve the citizens of Pender County.

This 2nd day of February, 2009

Jimmy Tate, Chairman

Rick Benton, County Manager