

At 1:00 p.m., April 19, 1977, the Board adjourned from the Board of Equalization & Review and the Chairman announced the meeting in regular session with all members present.

Also present were James E. Hill, Jr., Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk and approximately twenty-five Citizens of the County.

The Chairman announced that this was the appointed time to meet with Dr. Sarah Morrow, Secretary, Department of Human Resources. Others accompanying Dr. Morrow were Dr. Ben Aiken, Assistant to the Secretary and Dr. Richard Surles, Assistant to the State Mental Health Director.

The Chairman opened the meeting by inviting questions from the Board and the Citizens. Many points were discussed which related to mental health services in the County and the channels of procedure to become an independent mental health agency.

Dr. Morrow pointed out that the obligation of making the decisions for mental health services lies with the Board of County Commissioners as set out in the General Statutes of North Carolina and the procedures for implementing the programs are also contained therein. It was further explained by Dr. Surles that various agencies who provide grants have additional requirements and guidelines which have to be met to qualify for receiving and spending funds. After the initial decision is made by the Board as to the type of services they choose to offer, approval must then be given by a 15 member board appointed by the Governor which is independent from the Department of Human Resources.

Dr. Morrow stated that there are now in the Legislature bills being considered which would expand the budget of the Mental Health Department, one of which would fund services for mental retardation, which was one of the points of discussion at this meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved that the Board make a request to Senator Soles, Representatives Wright, Nye and Taylor to support the increase in mental health funds provided by the State by backing said bills.

After all persons were allowed to ask questions, the Board expressed appreciation to Dr. Morrow, Dr. Aiken and Dr. Surles for coming to the County and clarifying matters which have arisen over the past five months.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until May 2, 1977, which is regular meeting time.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs
Clerk

Waldo Marlowe
Chairman