

Deal To Cut Paperwork Burden Pleases County's DSS Workers

BY TERRY POPE

A plan to ease the paperwork burden for North Carolina's social service workers is getting favorable reviews locally.

State officials and the courts have hammered out a deal that would change requirements of a controversial 1989 court order.

Counties were kept out of the negotiating process, said Brunswick County DSS Director Jamie Orrock, president of the 4,000-member N.C. Social Services Association.

"It looks a lot better than what we had," said Orrock. "Everyone realized it was not benefiting the clients. It had gotten so cumbersome that it wasn't working."

Through the technology of conference calling, Orrock was linked with other state officials last week as opposing sides ironed out final points of the plan. The outcome, set for approval this week, has most counties pleased.

"I don't think we're going to get a better deal," Orrock said.

The proposal would end monitorings at the 96 county DSS offices by an outside team of investigators; put the state in charge of disability Medicaid (MAD) applications; and require quicker processing of applications for Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), the county's state- and federally-funded welfare program.

Plaintiffs in the Alexander vs. Flaherty lawsuit, first filed in 1974, alleged that the state's social services departments were not processing applications quickly enough. The 1989 consent order required that each department be monitored annually for policy and procedure by an outside team of reviewers.

Orrock has been an outspoken opponent of a mounting wall of paperwork that faces DSS workers. Requirements under the Alexander vs. Flaherty ruling increased the paperwork and actually slowed the application process, he argued.

If signed, the agreement would take effect Aug. 1, allowing departments six months to establish new procedures and time to comply with the court order. By 1993, DSS workers must process 90 percent of their AFDC

applications within 45 days. "We're doing that already," said Orrock. "That's not a problem for us now, and I don't see it as being a problem."

Brunswick County's AFDC unit received a certificate from the state in December for its number of error-free case actions and timely processing of applications.

The new standards must be followed for six years to eliminate other requirements under the Alexander vs. Flaherty ruling. Legal aid representatives, officials from the N.C. Department of Human Resources Division of Social Services and an independent mediator all met to revise the court order.

Monitors examined a sampling of Brunswick County's DSS records in July and noted that the department is ahead of the state average in processing AFDC applications. The average person applying for welfare in the county receives an answer within 17.8 days, compared to the state standard of 45 days.

The county's processing of MAD cases, however, exceeded the state average. But timeliness of MAD applications will no longer be a burden of the counties.

Under the new ruling, county DSS workers will take MAD applications in Bolivia and immediately forward them to Raleigh, where the state office will determine eligibility within 90 days.



THREE PEOPLE were injured Monday in this two-car accident in front of Brunswick Community College on U.S. 17 in Supply. The driver of the Honda, foreground, was charged with making an unsafe movement.

Three Injured In Supply Wreck

Three people were injured Monday afternoon in a wreck on U.S. 17 in front of Brunswick Community College in Supply.

William Scott Clemmons, 19, of Route 1, Bolivia, was charged with an unsafe movement violation after he pulled his car into the path of an approaching car traveling south, State Trooper R.L. Murray reported.

Clemmons, traveling north on U.S. 17, was attempting a left turn into the college driveway when his 1989 Honda was struck by a 1978 Ford Thunderbird driven by Arthur Vance Benton, 38, of Route 1, Winnabow, Murray stated.

Both drivers were injured along with a passenger in the Benton car, Doris Hall Benton of Winnabow. They were transported by ambulance to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

"Mostly, they suffered just cuts and abrasions," said Murray. All were treated and later released, he said.

Damage was estimated at \$600 to the Ford and \$4,000 to the Honda in the 2:10 p.m. accident.

Driver Charged
Two people were injured in an accident Tuesday morning at Grissetown.

Carmela Ann Ferlauto, 76, of Ocean Isle Beach, was charged with an unsafe movement violation after she pulled her car into the path of another vehicle at the intersection of

U.S. 17 and N.C. 904 about seven miles south of Shallotte, Murray reported.

Ms. Ferlauto was traveling south on U.S. 17 when she attempted a left turn onto N.C. 904 and her 1986 Nissan collided with a 1982 Datsun driven by Tommy Fredrick Gause, 45, of Conway, S.C., Murray stated.

Gause was treated and released at

The Brunswick Hospital following the 10:50 a.m. accident. Ms. Ferlauto received a broken foot in the wreck and was still being treated at the hospital Tuesday afternoon, said Murray.

Both vehicles were totaled, said Murray, with losses estimated at \$2,000 to the Gause car and \$3,000 to the Ferlauto car.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

BURGER KING

WEST BRUNSWICK HIGH STUDENT RECOGNITION NIGHT AT BURGER KING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 5-8 P.M.

ENCOURAGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND THIS EXCITING EVENING

20% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED TO WEST BRUNSWICK HIGH

©1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

SALE • SALE • SALE

Oldham UNITED STATES SAW
"Road Runner"
7 1/4" 24 tooth thin kerf Carbide Blades
\$7.99
reg. \$10.75

7-1/4" 24 tooth combination Reg. \$3.89 ... **\$2.90**
6-1/2" 24 tooth combination Reg. \$3.62 ... **\$2.60**

GAF SENTINEL®
Fiberglass Shingles
\$7.24
per bundle (33 1/2 sq. ft.)
Class A Asphalt Shingles

Limited 20 Year Warranty
Free Delivery in Bruns. City.

Do-It-Yourself
10x12 Deck Kit
Free Local Delivery
only \$350

Treated Materials with 3 steps, picket rails & 5/4" round edge decking
*Price may vary due to local building codes.

Thakita POWER TOOLS
MODEL 5007NB
Circular Saw
Reg. \$123
\$112.90

MODEL B04550
Belt Sander
Reg. \$53.99
\$48.50

LEXEL
Clear or White Caulk
10.5 fl. oz. tube
reg. \$6.29 **\$3.90**

Blidden
FAMOUS Spred Wall
... Value Priced!
\$7.99 Gal

#3200 & #3202 Flat Spred Wall
Glidden 9-1/4" smooth rollers reg. \$1.29..... **79¢**

NEW SOUTH
N80S Nailer
reg. \$532
\$385

CWH100 Oil-less Air Compressor
1 HP reg. \$332
\$290

STANLEY BOSTITCH

J.M. PARKER & SONS
Hwy. 17 & 211, Shallotte
754-4331

Great Rates Are As Easy As UCB.

24 to 35 month CD
for deposits from \$1,000 to \$99,999.

6.18% / 6.00%
Yield Rate

Great rates are also available on our
18 and 36 month fixed rate IRAs.

EasyAsUCB. **UNITED CAROLINA BANK**

For more information, please visit any UCB office or call 754-4301.

Rates shown are established weekly but may change more frequently. Substantial interest penalty for early withdrawal.

A New Year of Savings

1992 CONVERSION VAN
A/C AT, PS, PB, PW, PL, Cruise Tilt, AM/FM Cassette, Convert-a-bed, color TV, VCR, central vac system, first aid kit
\$18,995



1991 DYNASTY
Cruise, Tilt, AC, PL, Auto
\$9,995



1991 DODGE SHADOW
AT, A/C, Cruise, Tilt
\$7,495



1992 DAKOTA SPORT
Air, AM/FM Stereo
\$495 delivers with approved credit
\$8,972



JUST A SHORT DRIVE TO LORIS, SC

MAG WHITE
CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH DODGE

10% Discount on All Parts & Service for Senior Citizens (62 & Older)

Call Collect (803) 756-DEAL

Highway 701 N. Loris, SC

We Service All Makes and Models of cars and Trucks
SERVICE: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:30 • SALES: Mon.-Fri. 9-8, Sat. 9-5