



*WARREN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

*Special Meeting  
with  
Warren County's Legislative Delegation  
Tuesday, April 3, 2012 - 4:00 pm*

***WARREN COUNTY ARMORY CIVIC CENTER  
WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA***

***Prepared by:***

***Angelena Kearney-Dunlap  
NC Certified County Clerk***



Clerk Read

Notice  
Of  
Special Meeting

## **Notice**

### **Warren County Board of Commissioners Joint Meeting With Legislative Delegation**

**Notice is hereby given that the Warren County Board of Commissioners will meet jointly on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. with Senator Doug Berger, Senator Edward Jones and Representative Michael Wray.**

**This meeting will take place in the Warren County Armory Civic Center located at 501 US Highway 158 Business, East, Warrenton, NC 27589. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with Warren County's Legislative Delegation issues of critical importance to North Carolina's counties that may be deliberated in the General Assembly's 2012 Short Session.**

**For more information contact Linda T. Worth, Warren County Manager, at 252-257-3115 or [lworth@co.warren.nc.us](mailto:lworth@co.warren.nc.us)**

**All citizens are urged to attend this special meeting.**

**Ulysses S. Ross, Chairperson  
Warren County Board of Commissioners**



Call Special Meeting to Order  
By  
Chairman or Designee

Agenda Item # 2  
Moment of Silence

Agenda Item # 3  
Introductions



# **Opening Statement**

**By**

**Chairman Ulysses Ross**



# **Meeting Facilitator**

**Linda T. Worth, County Manager**

# **Discussion of Key Issues**

- 1. State Budget: Increase County Lottery Funds and Restore Mental Health Funding**
- 2. Allow Human Services Administrative Flexibility**
- 3. Authorize County Broadband Public/Private Partnerships**
- 4. Other Issues/Concerns**



## **2012 SHORT SESSION KEY ISSUES**

*Short Session convenes May 16, 2012*

1. State budget
  - a. Increase county lottery funds
  - b. Restore mental health funding
2. Allow human services administrative flexibility
3. Authorize county broadband/public-private partnerships

## Key Issue 1

### **KEY ISSUE NO. 1: STATE BUDGET - INCREASE COUNTY LOTTERY FUNDS AND RESTORE MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING**

The General Assembly will reconvene May 16 for its Short Session, with the primary goal of "tweaking" the second year's budget. State revenue targets undergirding the second year budget are predicated on an improving economy, one accelerating faster than that experienced over the first six months of the current fiscal year. Failure to meet these revenue targets will require additional cuts over and above any included in the second year budget. For 2012-13, the second year budget includes an additional discretionary reduction of \$74 million to public education, bringing the total discretionary cut over four years to \$500 million. What's more, federal stimulus dollars will have largely dried up by 2012-13. In contrast, an improving revenue picture could direct more state resources to public education, and especially that of K-12.

Once again, the House will initiate budget action, and rumors suggest that a proposed budget may be introduced on the opening day of session. Of particular concern to counties is the level of funding from lottery revenues. Should lottery sales next year reflect those anticipated for this year, counties would be due \$170 million in lottery funds for school construction. The General Assembly appropriated only \$100 million for lottery funds in 2011-12, however.

Counties have had to draw down their fund balances this fiscal year to backfill lost lottery dollars. A continuing reliance on fund balances is neither fiscally sound nor financially feasible. Furthermore, 2011-12 will be the fourth consecutive year that the state has redirected county ADM school capital dollars to state public school operating expenses, leaving lottery revenues as the only state shared revenue source available for school construction and renovation expenses.

Restoration of state mental health dollars is also a critical community need, as statewide implementation of the capitated model of care is requiring unforeseen startup expenses. This change is forcing local management entities to merge and create larger entities that v/ill provide services to a greater number of counties. While counties recognize that an LME's governance board should be kept to a manageable number, continued county commissioner participation would ensure appropriate oversight over county-provided resources, represent the community voice in local mental health deliberations, and provide ongoing advocacy for mental health services.

*Contact: Rebecca Troutman, (919) 715-4360 or [rebecca.troutman@ncacc.org](mailto:rebecca.troutman@ncacc.org)*

## Key Issue 2

# KEY ISSUE NO. 2: ALLOW HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITY

Unlike in most other states, North Carolina counties are responsible for administering social services and public health, largely with county employees and largely at county expense. A General Assembly evaluation documented more than \$1 billion in social services administrative expenses alone, with the state's contribution being less than 3 percent and the county's share exceeding 50 percent.

The study concluded that all counties should be granted the flexibility, at their option, to restructure human services in order to reduce administrative costs and spans of control, enable a countywide vision of service delivery, and improve client services. Current state law requires counties to maintain separate boards of social services and health, which have department directors that have no reporting responsibilities to the county board of commissioners or county manager.

Mecklenburg and Wake were granted flexibility to restructure and consolidate human services, and have done so successfully for more than 25 years. S433 (Local Human Services Administration) passed the Senate in 2011 and is currently in the House Committee on Health and Human Services.

*Contact: Rebecca Troutman, (919) 715-4360 or [rebecca.troutman@ncacc.org](mailto:rebecca.troutman@ncacc.org)*

## Key Issue 3

### **KEY ISSUE NO. 3: AUTHORIZE COUNTY BROADBAND/ PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

The Association advocated for and had success in supporting legislation that was enacted to allow county grants to be given for the expressed purpose of entering into a public-private partnership to deploy high-speed internet to underserved parts of a county. H593, Allow County Grants for Broadband, was a local bill adopted only for Nash County. Viewed as a pilot project, the legislation received overwhelming bipartisan support from both chambers.

NCACC staff is working with legislative members and the House Select Committee on Public Private Partnership to give the same authority to all counties across the state. Counties need this expressed statutory authority to proceed with agreements to work with the private sector to spur the conversation about bringing high-speed internet infrastructure and operability to underserved areas of North Carolina. Please urge your legislative delegation to support the use of public-private partnerships for broadband capabilities.

*Contact: Kevin Leonard (919) 715-4369 or [kevin.leonard@ncacc.org](mailto:kevin.leonard@ncacc.org)*



**Key Issues**

**Other Issues  
and/or  
Concerns**



# **Question & Answer Period**



# **Closing Statements**



*Adjourn*

*April 3, 2012*

*Special Meeting*