

Item Title: Amend the Human Services Board Stipend

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners increases the per meeting stipend for the Human Services Board from \$25 to \$50.

Item Summary:

Purpose: Boards and commissions play an important advisory role in County operations and policy. Per NC General Statute 153A-77, the Board of Commissioners appoints members of the Human Services Board and may provide a per diem in accordance with a policy set by the Board of Commissioners. The per diem should be the same for all members.

Background: The Wake County Board of Commissioners first established a policy regarding compensation for certain appointed boards and commissions in 1980, with a minor amendment to cover parking in 1998. Prior to having a consolidated Human Services Board, the former Health Board and Social Services Board received a stipend of \$20 per meeting. Since 1999, members of the Human Services Board have received a stipend of \$25 per meeting.

Board Goal: This action supports routine County business and the Board's discretion to compensate members of statutorily authorized boards and commissions.

Fiscal Impact: At the current \$25 per meeting rate, the average annual cost of providing this stipend has been approximately \$2,200 per year. An increase to \$50 would cost approximately \$4,400 per year, but could be absorbed through realignments within the current Human Services operating budget.

Additional Information:

The Wake County Human Services Board is comprised of up to 19 appointed individuals, including health/mental health care professionals, consumers of HS services, and the general public. Since 1999, Wake County Human Services Board appointees have received a stipend of \$25 per meeting.

In an effort to increase recruitment and retention of appointees, the County Manager recommends an increase of the stipend to the Human Services Board members from \$25 per meeting to \$50 per meeting. One of the more difficult slots to recruit and retain within the Human Services Board are the four slots designated for "consumers of HS services." While three of the four slots were filled in 2016 through 2018, no more than two of the slots have been consistently filled since that time.

In 1999, the Human Services Board approved their own procedures to allow for members to recontribute their stipend to a HS Board fund, from which they can decide to donate funds to small projects or needs within Human Services. Though not a requirement, most appointees do recontribute their stipends to this fund.

As a comparison, here are what other large counties in North Carolina provide to their Human Services (or Public Health or Social Services) Board appointees:

County	Stipend/Per Diem
Buncombe	\$0
Durham	\$0
Forsyth	\$25
Guilford	BOC serves as HS Board
Johnston	\$25
Mecklenburg	BOC serves as HS Board
New Hanover	\$0
Union	\$20

Attachments:

None.