



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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## News Release

### Commissioners Take Steps to Eliminate Human Services Board

**December 4, 2013, Monroe, NC** – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday took the first steps in abolishing the county’s Consolidated Human Services Board by authorizing the county manager to begin the process for the Board of Commissioners to disband the board and assume direct control of its activities.

On Feb. 18, 2013, the Board of Commissioners created a Consolidated Human Services Agency to carry out the functions performed by the Union County Department of Social Services and Health Department, a Consolidated Human Services Board, and the position of Human Services director to be appointed and supervised by the county manager. At the time, the two departments reported to independent, separate appointed boards in which the county had limited oversight other than fiduciary.

The Consolidated Human Services Board was charged with carrying out the functions of the Health Department and the Department of Social Services, including serving as the policy-making, rule-making, and administrative board of the Consolidated Human Services Agency.

“In light of the tragic event that has come to light over the past month, the Board of County Commissioners is considering this action in order to expeditiously implement any recommendations from outside agencies that could help us protect the vulnerable children in Union County,” said Commissioner Jonathan Thomas.

N.C. General Statutes allow the Board of Commissioners to assume direct control of the activities conducted by the Consolidated Human Services Board through the adoption of a resolution. Commissioners can only take control after holding a public hearing which will be held on Monday, Jan 6 at 7 p.m. at the Government Center in Monroe.

If the board elects to assume the duties of the Consolidated Human Services Board following the public hearing, commissioners will appoint an advisory board for professional expertise. The board could reexamine their position and consider reestablishment of a Consolidated Human Services Board at any time in the future.

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