

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, April 21, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairperson Joyce Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall
Commissioner Michael Smith

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of April 7, 2025 and the regular session of April 8, 2025. No revisions were requested.

APPOINTMENT

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated this is a regional board appointment and Ms. Kelley Saxon's term expired March 8, 2025. Ms. Saxon has reached the maximum amount of time a member can serve on this board. Additionally, Mr. Carlton Richard's term will expire May 28, 2025, and he has not expressed an interest in being reappointed. Mrs. Dukes stated Mrs. Juliana Powell and Commissioner Michael Smith have both expressed an interest in serving.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Acceptance of the VAWA Continuation Grant Award for 2025

Solicitor General's Office Representative, Karen Hayes, presented the grant. Ms. Hayes stated that on January 28th, the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners approved this application for Continuation Funding available through the VAWA Grant Program. This grant funds budgeted costs associated with specialized prosecutors to handle Family Violence and Violence Against Women crimes. The Solicitor's Office was recently notified that the grant application was approved with the same amounts as last year \$79,112 in federal funds and \$26,371 in matching funds by the county. This grant runs from January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025. Commissioner Marshall asked if this program would be removed by federal budget reductions. Ms. Hayes answered this should remain available at the current amount for the next two years. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked Ms. Hayes additional follow-up questions to verify whether this was a new position. Ms. Hayes responded that it is an existing VAWA position, which was filled in 2018.