

May 14, 1996, the Sabine County Commissioners' Court met in a special called meeting. The following members were present:

Jack Leath	County Judge
Keith Clark	Commissioner Pct. #1
Lynn Smith	Commissioner Pct. #2
Charles Ellison	Commissioner Pct. #3
Will Smith, Sr.	Commissioner Pct. #4
Janice McDaniel	County Clerk

Judge Leath called the meeting to order.

Agenda item #1-Child Protective Services

Members of the board present were:

Ed Berry	Edith McCauley
Dainer Edwards	Pat Friese
James Hoyle	Marjorie Williams

Mr. Ed Berry informed the Court that the State has developed a set of screening guidelines designed to limit the cases investigated by CPS (Child Protective Services). Only the cases deemed to be severe enough will be handled by the State. Even though State CPS personal may suspect that there is child abuse, if it does not pass their screening guidelines, they will not take the case. The State is depending on the County to take care of these cases. He ask the Court, what happens then? Does the board contact the Sheriff that there is suspected child abuse? Does the board contact the Judge because the Sheriff would probable have to have an order for him to act? By what authority can the board do this, no one on the board is qualified in this field. The local CPS is not State funded, they get their funds from donations and on occasion have gotten some money from a grant. There is not enough funds to hire a qualified Counselor if you could even get one within a reasonable distance.

There were also discussions about policies and procedures for the board, about the number of board members required to okay expenditures.

The Court ask the board to try to come up with policies and procedures. If they would let them know when they are having a meeting, members of the Court would attend if possible and help as much as possible.

After approximately one hour and fifteen minutes of discussions, Judge Leath stated that if there was not any more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Court adjourned.

 COUNTY JUDGE

