

Macon County Social Services Board

April 21, 2022

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending were Anne Hyder, Evelyn Southard, Dale West, Page McCurry/HR, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes

Agenda was approved on motion of Evelyn Southard and second by Anne Hyder, with one addition, adding CVA Conflict of Interest.

Minutes

Minutes were approved on motion of Evelyn Southard and second by Anne Hyder.

Budget Presentation

Budget Officer, Cathy Makinson, updated Board on budget process and discussed the need for an amendment to the DSS contract with Vanguard who provides foster care visitation, both local and out of county. Due to increased demand for services, Cathy requested Board approval to increase the contract to \$60,000. Motion was made by Anne Hyder, second by Evelyn Southard to increase the contract by this amount, motion passed. Monthly financials provided in board books.

NC DHHS Children and Families Specialty Plans

Patrick informed the Board of a letter he had written on behalf of the Department in support of continuing with mental health referrals and services through the local LME, Vaya. County Commissioners also agreed to send a letter of support to the state as well as the legislature and editor for local news media. Currently six mental health agencies oversee tailored plans and the state is considering a statewide plan that would require all physical, mental, behavioral and IDD services be provided through a single provider for all children involved with DSS child welfare. Patrick explained how this would undermine all the work being done in DSS to manage an increase in this difficult population. While larger entities have more services available, smaller rural counties do not and consist sometimes of staff having to spend the night in the agency with hard to place children. Locally, we actually have a Vaya employee on-site who works with case managers to help locate resources and that is the system we want in Macon County because this makes sure that the child's best interests are protected. If the state moves forward, the system will become very fragmented with an increase in the time and effort to meet the clients' needs.

Personnel Updates/Turnover Rate

Page provided an update to the Board on new personnel, Tammy Drinnon in Family and Children's Medicaid, Bea Mesa replacing Charlotte Balmer in Child Support, Michelle Wright replacing Kayla Hardy in the front reception area, Ashley Hoover in CPS, who has been at REACH for ten years and Pammela Hughes, the new CSSA at Senior Services. There are still two vacancies at DSS, the Adult Services Supervisor and a CPS social worker. Page invited the Board to attend the employee appreciation lunch in May and the volunteer appreciation event tonight at Senior Services.

CVA Conflict

This continues to be an issue as the state emailed the seven western DSS Directors and requested a meeting with these counties that surround Cherokee County. Surrounding counties had been assisting with CVA conflict cases referred from Cherokee. This became an undue burden to most of these counties and certainly for Macon with unprecedented number of vacancies and lack of staff to manage our own cases. Patrick will update the Board next month.

Closed Session

No Closed Session this month.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, May 19, 2022, with the location changed from the Human Services Building to the Crawford Senior Services Building for appreciation breakfast for staff and volunteers. Motion to adjourn made by Dale West, second by Evelyn Southard.

APPROVED BY:

Evelyn Southard 6/16/2022 Chairman/Date
[Signature] 6/16/2022 Secretary/Date