

Macon County Social Services Board

May 20, 2015

Minutes

Call to Order

Dinah Mashburn called meeting to order. Members in attendance were Dinah Mashburn, Chair, Jim Garner and Lisa Leatherman. Also attending was Jane Kimsey, Director and Secretary to Board and Patrick Betancourt, new Director and Secretary to the Board at the end of June 2015.

Minutes

Open Session and Closed Session Minutes of the March 26, 2015 and April 22, 2015 Board meetings were reviewed. Minutes were approved on motion of Jim Garner and second by Lisa Leatherman.

Financials

Monthly financials for March were provided in Board book.

Proposed contract list for next fiscal year was presented to Board. Copy is attached. Jim Garner made motion to approve contracts as presented and Lisa Leatherman seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary reported the new van was purchased to transport foster children. This purchase should utilize the remaining TANF cash savings for the current fiscal year.

FY '15-'16 budget will be presented to the county commissioners on May 21st, with target date of mid-June for the budget to be approved.

Program Reports

Gwen Taylor presented the Human Resources (HR) program report from the FY'13-'14 Performance Report. % of staff turnover for FY '13-14 was 13%with 3 resignations, 2 terminations, and 2 retirements. Average time out of work due to annual leave and sick leave was 5.5 days, which does not factor in 12 paid holidays, 2 administrative leave days due to weather, comp leave or family medical leave. Average annual performance score for FY '13-'14 increased by 2 points. HR with assistance from DSS attorney developed and implemented new coaching tool for employees in 2 year non-career status or on probation.

Old Business

Northwoods is currently conducting a focus group with the social workers to determine other efficiencies not determined by the time study. Based on these results a new time study may not be conducted due to the amount of extra time social workers have to spend on compiling this data.

DSS Director Qualifications have been recommended by the Director's Association to DHHS and Office of State Human Resources to basically remain the same except to remove the last qualifier that stated "an equivalent combination of training and experience" and to add language on qualifications for interim and acting appointments.

Work First Electing County Plan for FFY '16-'19 was presented and approved by the Macon County Board of Commissioners at their May meeting. The plan was reviewed and recommended to the Board by the Macon County Welfare Reform Planning Committee on which the Board of Social Services Chairperson serves. All eligibility rules in the new County Plan comply with NC FAST system requirements. Jim Garner made motion to approve new Work First Plan, Lisa Leatherman seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Secretary reported the federal Medicaid services termination for MQBE recipients reported at the last Board meeting was reversed, and coverage to pay the Medicare premiums not only continued but were reinstated retroactively. No impacts to recipients. Food and Nutrition Services Management Evaluation (FNS-ME) was conducted the first week of May. Out of the 10 areas reviewed, 4 had negative findings in part to the operationalizing of the NC FAST system. A Program Improvement Plan is being developed and will be submitted by the deadline.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Correction Action Plan based on the findings from the review held the first week of March was submitted. Area of focus was adult services and included improvements to guardianship service plans, timely case decision making and documentation on annual status reports. This corrective action plan will be conducted over a period of several months, concluded by June 30, 2015.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program audit review at Senior Services had a program finding on income eligibility. Corrective action plan required training.

Quality control review of Family and Children's Medicaid noted 1 area of improvement. Child Care Action notices are not to be used as verification of child care expenses paid. Staff were informed immediately not to use these notices as verification.

New Business

Changes to the Macon County DSS Program Integrity Policy were briefly reviewed. This policy has to be updated due to FNS ME Program Improvement Plan (PIP) referenced under Old Business. Final recommended policy will be emailed to Board for approval prior to submission of the FNS-ME PIP.

Secretary briefed Board on recent attention regarding the Voter Registration requirements of public assistance agencies. Raleigh News and Observer released a report that showed Macon County DSS % of voter registering through DSS had decreased by 58% which was the same average % drop statewide. Director's Association and DHHS believe the numbers reported are wrong, and did not consider the number of individuals who declined to register or were already registered. Local numbers support this claim too. Improvements are being made statewide and locally to accurately reflect the number of registrations.

The NC General Assembly required Medicaid audit will be conducted by the Program Evaluation Division (PED) of the General Assembly. Specifically the audit will evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of Medicaid eligibility determination in NC. 8 counties within an hour drive of Raleigh, as requested, volunteered to be audited. Report will be shared with Board when available.

Closed Session

Jim Garner made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and confidential case information. Lisa Leatherman seconded, and motion carried. Board returned from Closed Session.

Next Meeting

Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

Dina D. Mashburn, 6-17-15
Chairman/Date

Gene C. Kowsey 6/17/15
Secretary/Date

