

Macon County Social Services Board

October 21, 2020

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Evelyn Southard, Anne Hyder, Patrick Betancourt and Page McCurry, Human Services Planner/Evaluator.

Minutes

Minutes were approved on motion of Anne Hyder and second by Lisa Leatherman.

Board Compensation for November and December

The Board elected to donate stipend to Department of Social Services for upcoming holiday meals and gifts. Lisa Leatherman also volunteered Duke Energy logo items for gifts.

Financials

Director, Patrick Betancourt, informed the Board that Senior Services Administrative Officer has worked with CARES Act Funding to purchase a new 4X4 vehicle for Senior Services. Patrick noted that this is the first new vehicle Senior Services has purchased in many years and that this vehicle will benefit Senior Services for many years to come. Patrick also reported to the Board that the Dept. continues to spend down the restrictive Covid APS/CPS funds prior to the December 31, 2020 deadline. Approximately \$12.5K of \$18K CARES allocation has been obligated including approval from Co. Mgr. to pay APS/CPS comp. time. Covid foster care supplements have been processed through September. Financials were provided in Board books.

Child Welfare IV-E Review Results

Patrick informed the Board that virtual Foster Care Monitoring in September required the review of five records from January 2020 through June 2020. The results of this review determined that the Dept. had correctly determined IV-E eligibility in all five cases pulled. Patrick briefly discussed how IV-E eligibility is determined and he also explained a corrective action plan that was developed to pay back \$15.83 that was discovered during the Child Welfare IV-E Review. Patrick also spoke to a planned training with staff to ensure these mistakes are not made in the future.

Legal Update

Two lawsuits are pending for the Dept. and both cases are assigned to the same attorney that met with DSS Board recently on a foster care lawsuit. Patrick will continue to update the Board as needed, the Dept is waiting on the Court to move forward in both cases. Anne Hyder asked how the retirement of Macon County Attorney Chester Jones will affect the Dept. Patrick discussed that David Moore, Macon County DSS contract Attorney would continue to represent the Dept.

Personnel Updates

Personnel updates include the decision to onboard a foster care social worker leaving one social work vacancy in foster care and one social work vacancy in intake. Patrick explained to the Board his plan to add a social work Supervisor position to the Dept mid-fiscal year. Currently there are two social work supervisors, both with over 25 years of experience, so part of this request for another social work Supervisor is for succession planning as well as managing the increasing foster care caseloads and all their complexities. This additional supervisory position is ideal for the Dept because it would not require a reclassification of a current position and would bring the highest level of support to staff while not increasing caseloads for workers. Currently there is not a great applicant pool to draw from and it is increasingly hard to find qualified applicants.

Closed Session

Patrick Betancourt requested a motion to move into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11. Request was approved on motion of Anne Hyder and second by Lisa Leatherman.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is proposed for Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 10:30am in the Administrative Conference Room at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date