

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

April 21, 2021

Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Member attending via Zoom was: Lisa Leatherman. Meeting in person were Anne Hyder, Evelyn Southard, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, Page McCurry, HR Planner/Evaluator and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes, connecting with Board members through the Zoom virtual platform.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Financials/Contracts**

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, reported that the contract with Angel Medical Center for meals needed to be amended as Senior Services had received many COVID funds targeting meals and so the total expense would be more than the original amount of \$202,000. Amendment increases the contract amount to \$237,000. Additionally, Cathy presented the two contracts for meals provided by Angel Medical Center and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for a three-year contract term of FY 22-24 with those contract amounts staying the same annually as in the previous original contract. These contracts take time to be processed through HCA, formerly Mission Health. Motion was made to approve both the amendment and the two contracts by Anne Hyder, and second by Evelyn Southard. Cathy mentioned there has been no update to the budget for FY 21-22 and that the Energy Program has closed as of Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a possibility the state will reallocate LIEAP funds to provide a one-time supplement to those who received LIEAP in this fiscal year.

### **Meeting Change**

Patrick and Board discussed possible options to change the regular monthly Board meetings beginning in July to accommodate a potential new Board member. The Board made the decision to change Board meeting time and day to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 9:00am, with the July meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Crawford Senior Center Re-opening**

Patrick met with the County Manager along with Jennifer Hollifield, Rec Director, Sheriff and EMS Director to discuss re-opening services in Macon County. County Manager had already required all teleworkers to report back to locations as of April 19<sup>th</sup>. DSS had already returned staff as of March 29<sup>th</sup>. Decision was made to open Adult Day Care on June 1<sup>st</sup> and to continue congregate as drive-thru. Vaccine will be offered to caregivers and participants in that setting. If any positive cases occur, vaccinated participants can continue but unvaccinated would have to quarantine for 14 days from the program. Jennifer has developed a very thorough plan for safety of ADC participants.

### **Gallagher Compensation Study Update**

Patrick informed the Board for the past 1 ½ weeks, staff and leadership had been very involved in completing Position Description Questionnaires (PDQ), with each employee receiving an email for completing the questionnaire. The PDQ asked about job duties and responsibilities, level of decision making within the organization, reporting structure within the organizational chart and ADA. There was a very short timeframe from when employees received the PDQ and when it need to be completed. The PDQ ranked responsibilities in order of importance, wanting employees to be able to describe what they do. If a Supervisor didn't necessarily agree with something, they could discuss it with the employee but could not change what was submitted. The Gallagher Study incorporates a decision band model which the county can choose to adopt or not. It is uncertain as to how this would integrate with OSHR classifications for DSS and Health Department.

**Cherokee County CVA Update**

Patrick reported to the Board on a meeting with County Manager, DSS attorney and new County Attorney this morning to update and inform the new county attorney of Cherokee County involvement and state mandate for our department to assist in conflict cases. Currently, with several vacancies in social work, Macon County does not have the capacity to assist with any additional assist cases from Cherokee County DSS with continued unfunded requirement. County Manager agrees County will support this decision and asked for an approximate overall cost associated with the time and effort given so far. Directors in the neighboring six counties are requesting that the county commissioners have a unified voice and support this agreement. Patrick is to keep the County apprised of any action in regards to this decision and the state division.

**Personnel Update**

Page informed the Board of our newest CPS social work hire, Chelsea Rangel who begins on Monday. Additionally, Taylor Newman transferred within Adult Medicaid unit to Long-Term Care and Lynne Kurimay, from the clerical unit was transferred into Adult Medicaid to fill Taylor’s vacancy. Page also stated that John Jarvis, foster care social worker, has submitted his resignation effective May 21<sup>st</sup>. So, currently DSS has 2 CPS social work vacancies, 2 foster care social work vacancies and now one clerical position that needs filling. Page stated that even though there has been a lot of turnover in social work, that Macon County is not alone. Certainly, COVID has increased the burnout and has made it harder to fill vacancies. Page also mentioned that Mark Whitman is retiring in June.

**Closed Session**

No closed session this month. Anne Hyder made motion to adjourn, Evelyn Southard, seconded.

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 9:00am at the Crawford Senior Center for Board appreciation breakfast of Senior Services staff and volunteers.

APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman | Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary | Date