

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

June 17, 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, Secretary to the Board, Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes. First order of business was to select a Board Chair for next year, beginning in July, 2020. Anne Hyder nominated Evelyn Southard, second by Lisa Leatherman with unanimous approval.

### **Minutes**

Minutes were approved on motion of Evelyn Southard and second by Lisa Leatherman.

### **Financials**

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, provided copies of the initial contract list for FY 20-21 for approval. Motion to approve by Anne Hyder, second by Evelyn Southard, stands approved. Cathy reported on the anticipated cuts to next year's budget that were discussed last month, upon review, had been made. Cathy informed the Board, DSS had just been notified of a Covid 19 Foster Care Supplement for months April through June. Only children placed in licensed facilities and foster homes would receive a \$100 per child per month of placement. Instructions on how that was to be calculated and dispersed was provided.

### **Old Business**

Patrick advised the Board that the County Manager had inquired as to our Return To Office (RTO) proposal for teleworkers. Patrick had responded that due to increase in Covid cases, only a few workers had returned, including the intake workers that have private office space and a couple workers that needed additional Supervisor assistance or had bad internet connections. The cubicles are not quite six feet apart but have barriers in place. We are continuing to have employees check their temperatures upon entering the building and masks are being distributed. Patrick reported that KIDS Place has put in a grant request for up to 500 individual cloth masks for each DSS employee to have five re-useable masks.

Board asked about employee morale which Patrick responded saying it was okay. In the beginning it was better and as things are prolonged, it becomes more challenging for staff in the office. One of the challenges to staff is the processing of Economic Benefits applications. For example, Medicaid workers had been told they would not have to process recerts, that they would be deferred due to Covid. However, Supervisor Sheila Conley, instructed them to work the cases so when they had to complete recerts, it wouldn't be as time consuming. Then the State retracted and said, DSS would have to complete the recerts. Employees that home-based are enjoying being home.

### **New Business**

No New Business this month.

### **Closed Session**

Evelyn Southard made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel information as allowed under G.S. 143-318.11. Lisa Leatherman seconded, and motion carried.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

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Chairman | Date

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Secretary | Date