

Macon County Social Services Board

August 19, 2021

Minutes

Call to Order

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

Closed Session

Patrick stated the need to go into Closed Session first to allow David Moore to provide information to the board as allowed under G.S. 143-318.11. Anne Hyder made the motion to go into closed session, Evelyn Southard seconded, motion carried.

Minutes

Minutes were approved on motion of Anne Hyder and second by Dale West.

Financials/Contracts

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, reported recent county single audit by Martin and Starnes had gone smoothly and anticipated visit again in September for FY closeout. Update was given on the prior month's approval of two contracts. Macon Health Holdings, LLC, dba Franklin House, was been executed but still waiting on a meeting with Mountain Area Transport to complete their contract. DSS is still waiting on additional program information for an energy program that includes assistance with water bills. Financials were provided in the Board books.

Social Worker/Supervisor On Call Compensation

Patrick provided information to the Board on a proposal to compensate on-call social workers and supervisors. Macon is the only county out of the seven western counties that does not financially compensate for this responsibility. Currently social workers who accrue overtime, earn comp time that can be used prior and in place of vacation annual leave. With staff shortages, comp time accruals continue to build and it is difficult to take any time off and still meet work demands. This issue is causing workers to get further behind. Patrick's proposal would be paying an "inconvenience charge" for on-call social workers at \$20/day and supervisor at \$10/day any time they are on-call and he would like to make that retroactive to the beginning of this new fiscal year. These funds would be paid in the current budget from lapse salary. Patrick stated that last year, over \$93k remained in social work salary area due to vacancies. DSS Board gave Patrick their full support to present this request to County Admin.

Personnel Update

Page reported to the Board that she will be participating in an upcoming job fair advertising jobs that start at \$15/hour with her emphasis on recruitment of social workers. Page informed the Board of new hires Samantha Hood, CSSA in Adult Day program, Arianna Jimenez-Reyes, Foreign Language Interpreter and Kayla Hardy PAIII assigned to switchboard. Resignations included Kaitlynn Roper, CSSA at Senior Services, Courtney Bullman, Adult Services SW, Elizabeth Peavy and Frank Belanger of Adult Medicaid.

Senior Services Update

Patrick informed the Board that Macon Public Health and staff were concerned the center was still open with the uptick in Covid cases in Macon County, especially the Adult Day Program. MPH recommended that the Center close down effective this Friday at 5pm. There will be no indoor services but they will continue the drive through meals, home delivered meals, zoom and outdoor classes and Information

Center. Jennifer expects a significant decrease in the SHIPP savings to Macon County as they are limited to phone support only.

Special Assistance Audit

An SA audit was completed a couple months ago of long-term care cases which is 50% cost to the county. During the audit an initial amount of repayment was estimated around \$27,000. Sheila Conley and staff went back and reviewed every error for every case with none of them having errors in eligibility, only internal control or element errors such as date inconsistency. Patrick sent a letter noting the corrections to the elements and recognition that none of the paybacks were due to eligibility issues. He also addressed the lack of support and training provided by the State. Department learned this morning that there be zero payback and that the rebut of the appeal was successful. Board commended Patrick, Sheila and her staff for the work given on this successful appeal.

Next Meeting

Board adjourned on the motion of Anne Hyder, second by Dale West. Next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 9am at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date