

Macon County Social Services Board

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Regular Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending were Anne Hyder, Mike Williams, Patrick Betancourt (Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board), and Cathy Makinson, Contract Finance, to record minutes and update Board.

Proposed Agenda

Agenda was approved on motion of Dale West and second by Mike Williams, with one correction to the month of minutes listed.

Minutes

September minutes were approved on motion of Dale West and second by Mike Williams.

Fiscal Update

Cathy Makinson, former Business Officer and currently contract Finance worker, gave the FY 22-23 analysis, with an overall county savings of \$246,287, of which foster care was noted at \$100,616. All special assistance funds were expended as some of those funds were utilized in the IV-E audit payback. The foster care analysis also included a note of \$15,000 being moved to adoption assistance (AA), as there was an increase to children moving from foster care to adoptions that were eligible for AA funds. Senior Services showed an increase in county cost compared to original budget due to the loss of pandemic funds and rebuilding client numbers to tap into grant funds. Patrick updated the Board of the fiscal impact of kinship placement payments which the state approved after the budget was approved. County Administration is aware of this budget impact and the possibility of a needed increase in foster care funds due to the late notice that counties will need to fund. Patrick mentioned there may be a possibility of additional funds to offset this new county cost. Cathy explained new reimbursement of energy funds through direct deposit to DSS rather than the normal 1571 monthly reimbursement process beginning this month. Additionally, one of our vendors, Freeman Gas, has been bought by Superior Energy and all clients will have new account numbers. The challenge right now is to get the new account numbers in NC FAST so that payments made to the corporate office will be deposited into the correct accounts. The local office is not able to deposit on client's accounts as in the past.

Crisis Intervention Program Follow Up

Patrick provided the Board with an email from Allison Smith of DHHS, which provided updated information on crisis allowances for counties in the states bordering NC. Currently, North Carolina, has an annual \$600 maximum per household.

Combined Human Services Agencies Discussion

Kristy Nickodem, of the UNC School of Government, gave a ZOOM presentation to the DSS Board entitled, "Organization and Governance Options for Social Services", power point was provided.

Personnel Updates/Agency Exits

Updated Personnel Exit Rates in the Board books have already been impacted by two recent resignations. One a 17 year IMC worker in Intake is retiring in December and the second is a SW who has been here approximately two years and has resigned to take a grant position with WCU. The good news is the one of the three needed Medicaid Expansion workers began last week, Charlie Leatherman, well known to

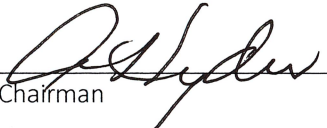
Board members. Of the two remaining openings, a second person will begin this Monday with the second selected applicant withdrawing after a neighboring county revised their offer for her to stay with their agency. Patrick was asked about the HR vacant position and he was able to say he had a second internal applicant what was interviewed yesterday. He will be discussing the candidate the Leadership team next week before making a final decision.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next month's meeting will be Thursday, November 16, 2023, with a revised start time of 11:00 a.m., followed by the agency Thanksgiving lunch with the Board being invited.

Motion to adjourn made by Dale West, second by Mike Williams.

APPROVED BY:


Chairman
11/16/23
Date


Executive Officer/Secretary
Nov. 16, 2023
Date