

Macon County Social Services Board

December 16, 2015

Minutes

Call to Order

Dinah Mashburn called meeting to order. Members in attendance were Jim Garner, Lisa Leatherman, Dinah Mashburn, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, and Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes.

Minutes

Open Session and Closed Session Minutes of the November meeting were approved after motion by Dinah Mashburn, and second by Lisa Leatherman.

Financials

Monthly financials were provided in the Board books. Business Officer, Cathy Makinson reported on the status of the current energy programs. The demands for assistance have been low with neighboring counties experiencing the same.

Program Reports

Lisa Hilliard presented performance measures for last fiscal year in the areas of Foster Care and Adult Services. Foster care caseloads showed an increase with Lisa reporting that in the last six months following year end, foster care continues trending upwards with more complex cases. Lisa reported that the state is now requesting workers to complete a trauma assessment when children come in to care. She met with professionals yesterday who agreed they are seeing the same need. Lisa stated that contract attorney, David Moore, held a ½ day session with Services staff discussing how we can improve our court processes. Patrick mentioned he has agreed to meet with foster parents in January to explain court processes and discuss any of their concerns to improve agency public relations. Lisa, her staff and GALs participated in a webinar regarding new legislation about establishing normalcy in foster care which allows foster children to participate in activities that normal children would be able to be involved in. Patrick recognized Lisa and her staff in the job that they do and their practice to allow foster children to already experience this normalcy as proposed by the state.

In Adult Services, Macon DSS has seen an increase in reports many of which are duplicate reports following an adult incident that the community may become aware of. Sometimes it is just a concern or referral but ends up being taken as a report which gets screened out due to duplication. Guardianship numbers are low compared to surrounding counties as we are able to utilize a contract with The Arc of NC which provides guardianship case management to adults with mental health issues. Patrick reported to the Board that he has been able to participate in Adult Protective Services and Guardianship training to help him better understand those programs and associated policies.

Old Business

Patrick reported that the reports provided by the state that he had provided last month to the Board in regards to the FNS timeliness appear to have inaccurate data. When Supervisor Sheila Conley saw a decline in our agency's data, she began to research the numbers. Since Macon is a smaller county, Sheila was able to hand count the cases and realized that the data was not including Friday case numbers in their reports and therefore the percents were skewed. Sheila reported this to the state and the official response we have been given is that in the future, they will include Friday data. The second area of concern was in the area of same day processing which the state had been advocating as best practice. During a short week where 15 cases were processed the same day, the state report reflected only a 56% timeliness where Sheila stated it should have reflected 100%. In reviewing the data, Sheila found that the state had failed to incorporate same day processing in the NC Fast system as timely with the current system showing it as a case that had not received benefits. All this to say, the state is not able to provide accurate timeliness percentage reports at this time. Sheila and Patrick continue to monitor the reports closely.

Second area of old business was in reference to the Child Welfare Process Review which took place in November. Patrick reported he had expected a draft report two weeks following review which has not been received as of this date. He hopes to have the draft report in January.

New Business

Patrick reported the possibility of a Medicaid audit finding in regards to our agency quality review process. Macon County does not have a "structured" process however we have a review process that occurs naturally as the Intake worker collects all the data for the application which is then forwarded to the Processor. The Processor second party reviews making sure the Intake worker has collected the information properly. When that case is up for review/recertification, the case is assigned to a different worker which is another part of the quality review process. Auditors had expressed a concern that it is not a more structured process including the pulling of the cases, logging them with review and outcomes. There is a conference call this afternoon to discuss this issue. The state has added more areas to audit in the area of Medicaid since NC has transitioned into the NCFAST system. Auditors are having to figure out what the state is wanting from them in this area as well with it being a learning experience for all involved.

Patrick reported he had been invited and met yesterday with other community partners as the Safe Kids Coalition. Hopefully this coalition will be able to take the recommendations made by the Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT). The CFPT meets and evaluates any case where a child under the age of 18 dies to identify any measures that could have prevented the death.

Patrick mentioned Sheila Conley had just returned from a 2 day conference which provided information and demonstration of the child care component to be incorporated into NCFAST in September 2016. Energy Programs are to be incorporated November 2016.

Closed Session
December 16, 2015

Board discussed personnel matters and confidential case information.

Board returned to Regular Session on motion of Lisa Leatherman and second by Dinah Mashburn.

APPROVED BY:

Dinah Mashburn 1-20-16 
Chairman/Date Secretary/Date