

Macon County Social Services Board

April 18, 2018

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called meeting to order and reminded Board Members that following the meeting today was the Employee Appreciation luncheon. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Darlene Green, Evelyn Southard, and Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board. Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes was absent.

Minutes

Board reviewed the meeting minutes from March 2018 sent by Cathy Makinson via email on Monday, April 16, 2018. Evelyn Southard made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darlene Green seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

Financials

Patrick reviewed financials as provided in Board books. Patrick reviewed with the Board the budget presentation to the County Manager and the Finance Director and that a fourth foster care social worker position had been requested based on the increased caseload demand and case complexities. Patrick also reviewed with the Board, fiscal year-end savings to the County. Typically end-of-year savings come from two projection sources: Special Assistance (SA) and Foster Care. This year, there would be no Foster Care savings reverted back to County based on the increased number of cases and the number of cases that qualify for State Foster Care funding in which the County contributes 50% of the cost (versus IV-E in which the County only contributes approximately 17%). Patrick reminded the Board that the Foster Care budget for next SFY presented to the County Manager and Finance Director for consideration was increased over this current SFY's amount as a precaution for the number and types of cases. A general discussion was held regarding how that proposed increase affected the overall department budget request in light of how foster care revenues are calculated. In addition to the volume of foster care cases contributing to the increased request, was the concern that the children entering foster care that qualify for State Foster Care funding will continue to outpace those that qualify for IV-E.

Program Reports

No program reports this month.

Old Business

Patrick updated the Board on NC FAST P4 (child welfare component) "go live" that occurred on 03-26-2018 with a "slow roll-out" for foster care (meaning that only cases involving children entering custody after 03-26-2018 would be opened in NC FAST. Patrick explained that on day 1 of P4, services intake received 6 child protective services (CPS) and 1 adult protective services (APS) report which caused a sharp NC FAST learning curve for the intake worker. Preliminary reports indicate that a report that took 20 minutes to process prior to NC FAST was now taking 1 hour each. As of today's Board meeting, there have been no foster care or CPS In-Home services cases put into NC FAST but CPS Assessments has experienced a number of problems within the system that have created staff to find "workarounds" or to submit Help Desk tickets.

Regarding NC FAST, Patrick also provided an update on the childcare subsidy concern of subsidy underpayment issues impacting local child care providers. Patrick discussed the letter sent to NC DCDEE on 03-20-2018 addressing how childcare subsidy underpayments were impacting one specific provider here in Macon County and childcare providers in rural western NC in general. Patrick explained that he had a telephone conference with Subsidy Manager Elizabeth Everette from DCDEE where each of the Covent Childcare Center's children's cases were reviewed and Ms. Everette took notes and agreed to have staff look into how to resolve this providers underpayments and provided information on how the State was going to be responding to all providers moving forward.

Patrick provided an update on the Cherokee County Custody Visitation Agreement (CVA) internal file review process and presented a memo to the Board that outlined the almost 300 files reviewed with no findings of concerns for practice that infringed on parental rights to care, custody, and control of their children without appropriate court intervention. The Board discussed the process for review and the timeframe under which the review occurred. The Board recommended adding a more detailed timeline to the final review document to clearly outline the overall process as well as addressing how the review of records is based on current law, rule, and policy and not what law, rule, and policy may look like in the future. The Board also asked questions related to liability concerns which Patrick agreed to request that Attorney David Moore be available to speak with the Board to help explain the Board's responsibilities as defined in [G.S. § 108A-9](#). The Board elected to hold the approval of the memorandum on file review completion until after the conversation with David Moore.

Patrick gave an update on the Asheville Citizens-Times' request to participate in a panel discussion with other area leaders and State representatives including Sen. Jim Davis. Patrick explained that the panel discussion was well attended by local and State government leaders. The discuss also highlighted many of the same concerns that came out during the local No Wrong Door meeting including concerns about the best way in which to address the crisis, the pervasiveness and complexities of the issue in Western NC, and the lack of coordinated resources to address the crisis.

Patrick reviewed the email from UNC School of Government faculty member Aimee Wall. That email confirmed that Lisa Leatherman's first partial term as Social Services Board member is not considered in the two term maximum of six years.

New Business

Patrick reviewed the results from several State monitoring events including: the NC Division of Social Services' fiscal monitoring in February 2018; the NC Division of Social Services' Management Evaluation (ME) review in March 2018; and the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services' Special Assistance (SA) review in April of 2018. Also discussed was the suspension of the NC Division of Social Services' Child Welfare Process Review based on lack of available State staff as a result of their on-site presence in Cherokee County.

Patrick reviewed the Senior Health Insurance Information (SHIIP) savings for Macon County for Calendar Year 2017 – 8 volunteers helped 1,139 seniors save \$1.2M. Patrick explained that the total number of members assisted may not be all Macon County citizens as some citizens from other counties

may live closer to the Crawford Center or know others who use the service here in Macon County and access these SHIP volunteers rather than volunteers in their home county.

The Board agreed to move the location for the May meeting to the Crawford Center and to utilize that time to host an Employee Appreciation breakfast.

Closed Session

Evelyn Southard made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and confidential case information. Lisa Leatherman seconded and the motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. at Crawford Center starting at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date