

Macon County Social Services Board

June 20, 2018

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called meeting to order. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Darlene Green, Evelyn Southard, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board and Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes.

Minutes

Evelyn Southard made motion to approve May minutes, second by Darlene Green, minutes approved.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson informed the Board of new Uniform Guidance requirements with regard to purchasing/contracting goods and services. After reaching out for guidance from state program reps and our county finance director, the only guidance given was to consult your county finance director and attorney. There are only a couple contracts that fall within the monetary constraints and so to cover our potential obligation, we are advertising an RFQ for legal services. Patrick reported that the County Budget for FY 18-19 had passed the night before with a 5-0 approval vote and includes a 2% COLA and our new foster care social worker that was requested. Financials were provided in Board books.

Program Reports

No Program Reports this month.

Old Business

Patrick updated the Board on the CVA issue in Cherokee County. He presented the Board with a draft Memo on the results of the Internal Monitoring Review. Board made several suggested revisions to the memo which Patrick agreed to make along with bringing the memo up to date from the last entry of May 15, 2018 and continue adding any ongoing activity in relation to the Review. Patrick also reported that Macon had received 2 assist cases to review in relation to the CVA issue which he stated we are treating like any other case. David Smith, CPS Supervisor who completed the monitoring of 270 Macon files reported on the process and communicated how Cherokee County issues have impacted us locally. David, who began working for Macon in June 2015, became CPS Supervisor in May 2016, was the sole monitor and was able to review cases over the last 10 years objectively, reported no findings.

David also reported on the NC FAST P4 status and informed the Board that the State has decided to delay adding any other additional counties until many critical issues are resolved. Issues are compounding rather than diminishing. For example, just to print a report, it is a 16 step process with multiple clicks. Currently, Macon has 10-15 CPS cases in NCF that are stuck and have help tickets. This has caused additional stress on workers that already have high caseloads. As Supervisor, his emphasis and encouragement to the workers is that the most important aspect is to be focus on keeping children safe and use paper forms and document if they need to, to complete their work. NCF has increased the desk/computer time immensely, and decreases the amount of the time the workers have been able to be in the field doing the work. On broken cases, workers are documenting steps even if they can't complete them in NCF and then will add them to the system when it is fixed. Plus, there is a

huge influx of critical cases at this same time that require more evaluation and involvement. Patrick was able to express that Macon has not seen the dramatic turnover in social workers as some of the other pilot counties such as Sampson at 30-40%. Patrick has made the State aware that we would consider pulling out as one of the pilot counties as opposed to massive turnover.

State informed Patrick that IBM will be contacting Macon to come on-site to observe and evaluate the NCF issues and be able to see firsthand what is working and what is not.

Patrick reported he had presented the state/legislature required MOU to the County Commissioners who asked him to be the signature on the document. The measures do not go into effect until January 2019, however Patrick doubts the state has the capacity to oversee all 100 counties. Additional discussion is deferred to July DSS Board meeting.

New Business

In preparation for the new fiscal year, Lisa Leatherman was voted to Chair the Board and scheduled meeting time will remain the same, 3rd Wednesday of each month, 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room.

Closed Session

Lisa Leatherman made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and confidential case information. Darlene Green seconded, and motion carried.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date