

Macon County Social Services Board

September 23, 2014

Minutes

Call to Order

Dinah Mashburn called meeting to order. Members in attendance were Dinah Mashburn, Chair, Jim Garner and Lisa Leatherman. Also attending was Jane Kimsey, Director and Secretary to Board.

Minutes

Open Session and Closed Session Minutes of the August 20, 2014 Board meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved on motion of Jim Garner, second by Lisa Leatherman.

Financials

Monthly financials for August were provided in Board book.

Cathy Makinson presented the FY 13-14 fiscal closeout report and the FY 13-14 benefit comparison report. The fiscal year end county administrative/services report generated by the state detailed a total of \$4,314,760.61 in non-public assistance expenditures for Macon DSS. County portion of this total was \$1,814,355.86 with an adjustment of \$147,489 for the Senior Services revenue not captured on the report, yielded a 39% county cost for last fiscal year, and a 61% federal and state reimbursement rate. The federal and state reimbursement rate increased by 1% over FY 12-13. It was reported that there was a \$522,698 county cost savings at budget closeout over the approved budgeted county expenditures. Of these savings that were returned to the county, \$63,347 was in Foster Care savings and \$132,061 was in Special Assistance savings. These savings were in addition to purchasing the Northwoods electronic document management system for the social work services unit.

Medicaid benefits paid out in FY 13-14 could not be obtained due to the new NC TRACKS and NC FAST systems; therefore, the benefit comparison report was approximately \$40,000,000 less than the prior fiscal year. Total benefits that could be tracked for last fiscal year were \$9,722,510 compared to \$49,488,271 for the prior fiscal year. If Medicaid benefit data can be obtained, then this report will be revised.

Board revised the Barium Springs contract to accept the state awarded additional revenue of \$961.00 bringing the new total contract to \$7421. This contract amendment was approved on motion of Jim Garner, second by Lisa Leatherman. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Reports

A draft FYE 2014 Program Performance Report was shared with the Board, which rotating monthly team reports to the Board will begin in October.

Old Business

An identified fraud case is being referred to the District Attorney's office for prosecution by the end of September.

NC Association of County Commissioner's representatives visited Macon DSS to learn more about NC FAST and how Macon has been so successful in implementing this system change with little to no additional county cost over the past 2 years. NC FAST Medicaid hard launch will occur on November 1.

Work First Electing County Plan was approved by County Commissioners at the September Board meeting. Request was made for the DSS Board to also approve the FFY 16-19 Work First Electing County Plan as developed and recommended by the Macon County Welfare Reform Planning Committee. Primary changes to the plan included:

- Welfare Reform Planning Committee members will be appointed by position not by person
- Emergency Assistance Cap will be \$400 and will no longer include housing subsidy
- 6 months of supported employment activities after obtaining a job was reduced to 3 months of supported employment activities
- Direct monthly cash payment was eliminated with approved Work First benefit made directly to vendor of service(s)

Jim Garner made motion to approve plan, Lisa Leatherman seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Director reported on Special Assistance audit that has identified county pay backs due to case errors. An audit of this program has not been completed since the current Special Assistance staff were assigned these responsibilities which the staff were very concerned that there was a county payback. Board appreciated the staff's commitment and concern of a payback, and acknowledged that audits are conducted to improve performance which may have a financial cost in the process.

New Business

Director shared with Board results of recent meeting with Angel Medical Center on the new Medicaid application process. Applications for Medicaid at AMC have significantly increased due to new interpretation of charity care policy as well as increased referrals from outpatient services and physician practices. If AMC patient has no payer source and screens as potentially eligible for Medicaid, patient must apply and be denied for Medicaid before receiving charity care. At the same time that Medicaid apps have increased, the time to take and process Medicaid apps has also increased for the 1 caseworker located at the hospital. Recommendation was to have 2 Income Maintenance Caseworkers (IMC) placed at the hospital, which the current AMC contract would now pay the non-federal match for 2 positions due to the federal reimbursement going from 50% to 75% since the original contract was developed in June. Hospital CEO is agreeable with having 2 IMCs and will advise if the current contract would have to be amended, or if the current language will suffice with the understanding that the contract is for 2 IMCs instead of 1 IMC.

SHIIP contract in the amount of \$4,145 for this fiscal year has been awarded to assist with the Medicare Open Enrollment process. Instead of hiring a part-time staff person, as has been done in the past, Senior Services has requested to pay stipends to all SHIIP volunteers that volunteer at least 5 hours a day until the funds are expended. Jim Garner made motion to approve contract for stipends, Lisa Leatherman seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Public Records Policy that was emailed to Board members for review was discussed. Concern was raised that under I. Inspecting Public Records in Person, # 2 referenced other agency or departments of county government which this policy was for DSS not for other county departments. Motion was made by Jim Garner to approve policy with deletion of reference to other county departments, and Lisa Leatherman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director informed Board of recent updated training on DSS requirement to provide voter registration services to applicants/recipients of public assistance which Macon DSS appears to be in compliance with all requirements as presented. Majority of the applicants/recipients complete a preference form declining to register because they are already registered.

Legislative child care subsidy changes effective October 1st were briefly presented. Income guidelines were reduced significantly for school age children, countable household income was changed to include step parent's and grandparent's income, parent fees were set at 10% and no more part-time subsidy is available. Most impacted is the Wrap Around Child Care Program at MPP Head Start where one working parent's subsidized child care fee went from \$300 to \$600 a month.

Recent Food and Nutrition Services federal review has identified significant deficiency areas in counties reviewed that according to the state are primarily due to procedural problems, reports and filling out forms issues that did not directly impact actual benefits being provided to the clients.

Closed Session

Jim Garner made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and case information. Lisa Leatherman seconded, and motion carried. Board returned from Closed Session.

Next Meeting

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 15 at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

Dinal Mashburn 10-15-14
Chairman/Date

Janice C. Kinsley 10/15/14
Secretary/Date