

Macon County Social Services Board

February 15, 2012

Minutes

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Dalton. In attendance were Wendy Dalton, Jim Garner, Dinah Mashburn and Jane Kimsey.

Minutes

Open and Closed Session Minutes of the January 18, 2012 and the January 30, 2012 Board meetings were reviewed. Open Minutes and Closed Session Minutes of both Board meetings were approved on motion of Dinah Mashburn, second by Jim Garner.

Financials

Monthly financials were briefly reviewed. State budget estimates FY '12-'13 are due by end of day, but have been advised these will only be rough estimates since many federal and state cuts have not yet been finalized or even projected. County estimates for FY '12-'13 are to be provided on 2/17. Budget for FY '12-'13 will be very difficult to gauge given many variables.

Program Reports

\$47,658 in Emergency Assistance benefits has been expended, which these benefits are to assist families with utility disconnects, rent or mortgage up to \$400 maximum benefit. Additional allocation of \$19,134 in Low Income Energy Assistance has been expended, and additional allocation in CIP of \$78,374 has \$46,850 remaining. Haywood Electric, Helping Each Member Cope, has been almost fully expended. This fund is for income eligible Haywood Electric customers experiencing heating related crisis with any type of heat source, not just electricity disconnects.

Old Business

Updated information was provided on the extensive Medicaid Transportation Services changes that were retroactively implemented to January 1, 2012, which training on changes was not provided until second week of January. Some of the changes are being given a grace period to implement; however, the 19-21 federal data requirements have to be implemented immediately or counties are subject to county fiscal pay backs if found out of compliance in audits. To comply with the massive data collection, the self-audit requirements, and the additional verifications required, a full time Medicaid Transportation staff person will be required. This position would receive 50% federal reimbursement but would require 50% county match. County fiscal paybacks could easily exceed the 50% county cost.

Most of the Child Support Enforcement Services calls have been directed to Child Support Call Center which if the Call Center Support staff can not assist the caller messages are sent to the local Child Support Agents to respond to the caller. This practice was implemented due to the lack of experienced agents. Part time contracted child support agents have helped with the 2 full time vacancies but are not able to cover all work demands and take all the phone calls coming into the office.

New Business

Sheila Conley, Income Maintenance Supervisor, developed a change form for recipients of Food and Nutrition, Medicaid, Child Care & Child Support Services to report changes to their cases. This form will be posted on the DSS website, and a computer will be set up in the DSS lobby, for recipients to email the change forms for processing. This form was developed to decrease the number of phone calls and to decrease necessity of seeing a case worker. Supervisor developed this concept to improve customer service and work efficiencies after attending the Statewide Leadership Conference in January. These teams will also be going to Task Management/Case Banking in effort to be more efficient. Director informed the Board that DSS Directors were advised of changes to the Guardianship law and appointments of public guardians. Due to mental health becoming the “managed care” authority for Medicaid, legal opinion is mental health can no longer be appointed public guardians, which they have been the most appropriate public guardian for individuals with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Additionally any guardians that mental health currently serves either directly or through contract services will be transferred to social services, which NC DHHS has indicated there will be some funding transferred also, but not adequate funding to fully cover all costs, and probably no funding for future guardianship appointments. Director is working on plan to minimize financial impact to county.

Closed Session

Dinah Mashburn made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss confidential case information, personnel and contracts. Jim Garner seconded, and motion carried. Board returned from Closed Session.

Next Meeting

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date