

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

October 21, 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 July, August and September meetings were approved after motion by Jim Garner, and second by Lisa Leatherman. Minutes had been deferred for approval since each of those months a board member was absent due to conflict.

### **Old Business**

Old Business was reviewed before Financials so that Sheila Conley and Gwen Taylor could present and then attend other commitments. First, Patrick reviewed the FNS timeliness issue as he along with County Manager Derek Roland, attended a webinar regarding the upcoming Federal changes that the State wanted County Managers and Commissioners to be aware. There is a two-fold concern: a) processing in a timely manner and b) error rates. On the webinar, the new DHHS Secretary established a positive team approach. New DHHS Secretary, Richard Brajer stated we are all in this together and that the state had compiled a list of counties, ranking processing rates. Patrick provided the Board with a copy for their review which reflects Macon County's rate of almost 97% which meets the new 95% timely processing rate to be effective January 1. However, this data was compiled from a point in time NC FAST which is different from what the USDA will evaluate. USDA will look at cases the state pulls in a Quality Control Review and then submits to USDA. Patrick reminded the Board that the State stands to lose up to \$88 million if they do not meet the new timeliness requirement. Discussion on webinar was to focus on the goal of increasing that statewide average to meet the requirement over the goal to decrease error rates which would be much less of a penalty. Patrick also reported Macon DSS had submitted their plan to the state as requested showing how we plan to address the issue, including the use of an automated phone tree that calls clients when information is still needed to process recert. Additionally, Sheila and Patrick will be attending the Social Services Institute this week and hope to gain insight on best practices presented by counties that are successful in this program.

Sheila then presented on the Performance Measures and Outcomes for FY 14-15 in Food and Nutrition Services, Energy Assistance, Child Care, Medicaid, Work First and Child Support Enforcement. Sheila highlighted the increase in Program Integrity recoupments with Chrissy Wallace increasing her time in fraud. Sheila also reiterated that Polly Bradley had received a state award achieving top percentage of increase in Establishment

and a September Shout Out to Andy Kusch for recouping over \$16,000 on a Social Security Disability approval.

**Financials**

Monthly financials for September were provided to the Board, no questions at this time.

Business Officer presented proposed TANF Plan after DSS received the Work First Block Grant Funding Authorization which included the Electing Cash. Cathy also reported that Macon County DSS received a \$42,000 overall decrease in TANF and Child Welfare funding as compared to FY 14-15. Motion was made by Jim Garner to approved TANF Spending Plan for FY 15-16. Lisa Leatherman seconded and the motion was approved.

**New Business**

Senior Services was recognized as being selected runner-up for Host Agencies across the state by the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Child Support received a Shout Out September award as Andy Kusch collected over \$16,000 in an arrears case through a disability claim.

**Closed Session**

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

**Next Meeting**

Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room. If the DSS Thanksgiving Luncheon is scheduled that day, the meeting time will be revised to 10:00 am and posted accordingly.

APPROVED BY:

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Chairman/Date

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Secretary/Date