

Macon County Social Services Board

October 24, 2017

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 September minutes, second by Darlene Green, minutes approved.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson reminded Board that the Energy Assistance Program begins November 1st and that the funding allocation as well as the energy admin dollars have been decreased again. With that in mind, leadership has evaluated how to streamline the process and only claim admin time when processing a case. Additionally, instead of rotating workers, we are going to be using a specific pool of workers without using Medicaid workers because they bring in greater revenues. Financials were provided in Board books.

Program Reports

Patrick presented Performance Measures for Senior Services, highlighting all the services provided. One of the highlights being Macon ranking 6th in NC for savings in SHIPP. Our volunteers saved Macon County seniors more than six million dollars in out of pocket prescription drug expenses. The volunteers are a diverse and active group. The community paramedic program implemented this year has provided substantial savings as they follow up with discharged hospital patients; one example being the savings in reduced ambulance services.

Old Business

Patrick gave an update to the Capital Improvement Plan suggestion of utilizing a contract grant writer. He had reached out to other county DSS agencies to find out if any of them have done this with McDowell County being the only county to have contracted in this area. Patrick forwarded the information to county manager, Derek Roland.

DSS Board finished editing the draft copy of the revised Macon County DSS Policy and Procedures Manual.

New Business

Patrick reported to the Board he had attended Social Services Institute last week and was informed by Clay and Jackson counties that their county commissioners were scheduling a public hearing in November in regards to the possibility of consolidation.

Patrick informed the Board he would be meeting with county manager the next day to discuss the county contract/agreement with NCDHHS. County could face penalties if they do not achieve performance measures to include services areas along with timeliness in FNS and Medicaid processing. He will be

assuring Derek that he does not expect to ever be in that position as Macon DSS continues to meet and exceed the state guidelines.

Patrick reminded the Board that child welfare is being integrated into NC FAST, along with Medicaid, FNS and Childcare. This will replace old systems and makes it a web-based enterprise approach where eventually an agency worker will be able to see all services a family/individual is receiving. NC as a state never implemented a case management system. With former Director Jane Kimsey's insight, Macon DSS purchased Northwoods to assist with case management. When Northwoods completed a child welfare module, Macon added this component. Five years later, the state is implementing child welfare in NCFAST and we expect many glitches as we experienced when FNS and Medicaid was transitioned. Patrick stated Macon was scheduled to be in a later phase in April 2018 until a week ago. He received a call from the Director of the NCACDSS requesting Macon to be a part of the first phase in January. After speaking with supervisors, then staff, explaining it was a no/yes question and not mandatory, the workers agreed to move forward to implement in January, only allowing three months for preparation. There are five pilot counties already testing the system. David Smith heard from those counties at the SSI conference and felt this was a positive decision. Macon is already ahead of the curve having used Northwoods Co-Pilot. The earlier counties begin transitioning, the more state support will be available with the state clearly communicating the latter counties will be trained by the first counties because resources will be exhausted at that point. Patrick along with Lisa Hilliard and David Smith will be traveling to Polk County DSS to evaluate what we may need to proceed.

Closed Session

No Closed Session this month.

Meeting was adjourned upon motion made by Evelyn Southard, second by Lisa Leatherman.

Next Meeting

Next Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date