

Macon County Social Services Board

November 14, 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 October minutes, second by Darlene Green, minutes approved.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson gave an update on the current Energy Programs. Applications began being accepted today as there is much colder weather in the forecast. A revised Adoption Services Fee Schedule was presented. Motion to accept the revision was made by Evelyn Southard, second by Darlene Green, unanimous approval.

Program Reports

No Program Reports presented.

Old Business

Patrick updated the Board on the OSRI, On-Site Review Instrument as presented last month. Patrick spoke with the reviewer regarding the number of times, this being the 3rd time in two years, that Macon County was randomly selected. Reviewer assured Patrick it was random and he reviewed 2 cases, one in foster care and the other an In-Home Services case. The review went well and in both cases and commendations were given to both case workers on great documentation. However, the state reviewer found that there was not sufficient engagement with the father in one case. Once there is a finding, it can be repeated throughout the tool. Patrick stated he feels the challenge with this tool is that it doesn't look at the overall outcome versus checking the box of processes captured on the tool. In the In-Home case, again, the reviewer complemented the good documentation and had accolades for the Social Worker, Sherre Dean. Board was reminded of the narrow review period, one year, which didn't take into consideration, all the work that had been completed prior to the review period.

Patrick updated the Board on the rescheduled child welfare listening session in Jackson County that he attended the prior week. The meeting was not well attended but there were still productive ideas about child welfare improvements. Patrick had been invited to sit on the panel as a listener rather than provide feedback. At the end of the meeting he was able to request of the state not to take the feedback and add to the list of requirements for social workers to complete but to find resolutions. UNC School of Government stated that in all six listening sessions across the state there were common themes. A report on all of the listening sessions should be released after the holidays.

David Smith updated the Board on NC FAST and the child welfare component. A revised system and updated version will begin 11/19/18 including intake and assessments. State has tried to streamline. David reported he was to be in training today reviewing the intake portion. Assessments are taking

twice the time to complete in NCF and In-Home is still not functioning well. David stated Macon DSS has one In-Home social worker and others assist when she has a full caseload. He also stated there is not a backlog in documentation but the system is still not taking the information. Workers write the documentation and then scan into NCF. The system does not interface with Word but documentation can be cut and pasted as a second measure so they do not lose any information in the process. Looking to the future, there may be a benefit to adding a processing assistant in the budget to assist workers with the system such as case set up and scanning. State focus is on rolling out NC FAST P4, the child welfare component in NCF to the rest of the state. Macon has offered to hold workshops for surrounding counties rather than sending workers to western counties and vice versa. State liaison will also try to provide support during those work sessions.

Patrick informed the Board that while he was in Raleigh last week, directors were informed that they will be receiving new MOUs due to the fact the state has been unable to validate data to measure performance. Counties will be held harmless this fiscal year.

As mentioned last month, there is a payback from the Work First/TANF audit. Anytime there are review findings, a program improvement plan has to be developed and submitted. Macon is developing a continuous quality improvement cycle including additional training if there are common mistakes after the second party reviews to better equip the unit.

New Business

Patrick informed the Board, after meeting with SWCDC Director, Sheila Hoyle, a new arrangement was reached with SWCDC in regards to childcare subsidy. Rather than a direct payment to this agency for the services they provide to our childcare centers, Macon will provide our childcare eligibility worker, Amy Breedlove, to help train new subsidy workers in the western region in policy and to have our NCF champion, Nina Parrot, to assist the western counties with NCF help tickets.

Closed Session

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

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, December 19th, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room, followed by the Christmas luncheon.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date