

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

December 19, 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 November minutes, second by Darlene Green, minutes approved.

### **Financials**

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson gave an update on the current Energy Programs. Cathy reported that NC FAST has a glitch that is not allowing applications to be processed or adjusted. Workers are not able to notify clients whether they have been approved or denied until the application is processed and we are receiving calls at the switchboard inquiring. We have a backlog of applications needing to be keyed but as of this morning, with what has been approved, approximately \$75,000 has been obligated in Crisis, \$27,000 in LIEAP and \$2,600 in Haywood funds. Financials were provided in the board books.

### **Program Reports**

No Program Reports presented.

### **Old Business**

Patrick updated the Board on the Macon County Capital Improvement Plan. Departments submitted requests last fiscal year limited to space needs. The only item DSS submitted was an expansion to the Crawford Senior Center. DSS was encouraged to go big in planning what they needed. A 9 million dollar proposal included purchase of property, a new building that included a commercial kitchen and more space and parking. The proposal was patterned after the Jackson County Senior Center after visiting that space. The County decided to conduct a space analysis and budgeted the funds in the current fiscal year. This analysis is underway and DSS has already had analysis of the building's fire and security systems. Last week, Patrick received an email from Finance Director, Lori Hall, to submit any needed updates to the CIP plans. This week County Manager has requested a department head meeting this Friday to discuss the issue. Patrick advised the Board there are already issues with Senior Center participants getting to the Center as well as a lack of parking due to the construction of the roundabouts.

Patrick reminded the Board of the MOU with NC DHHS in regards to accountability in performance measures applied to most program areas. Recently, the state sent a Dear County Director Letter stating agencies would be held harmless for FY 18-19 and asked that the modified agreements be signed and returned. State will use data from 18-19 to establish baselines and project growth needed to meet benchmarks in each county. Patrick stated he had checked with county manager and commissioner on the modification and they supported Patrick proceeding. He shared concerns of data being used from the old system for projections as the 11 pilot counties in NC FAST do not have current data to utilize

and appears to show them not meeting goals. State plans to provide regular data and counties should be aware as to where they stand all along the way in meeting the goals. Board endorsed Patrick signing the modified MOU.

### **New Business**

Patrick had emailed two new DSS draft policies for review. The first being a more expanded Grievance Policy which aligns to State OSHR policy as the current county policy is minimal and not well defined. After a brief discussion and a few revisions, a motion was made by Evelyn Southard, second by Darlene Green, to adopt the policy. The second draft policy was a Variable Work Schedule Policy including flex time and modified work schedule being defined. After brief discussion and recommended changes, a motion was made by Evelyn Southard, second by Darlene Green, to adopt the policy. Both policies will be explained at tomorrow's all staff meeting and incorporated in the DSS Policy and Procedures Manual.

Patrick expressed he had been asked by Commissioner Beale and Mike Norris if he would consider serving on the VAYA Health Board which serves the western counties, not just Macon. Board supported Patrick accepting the nomination and moving forward if selected.

Patrick informed the Board of recent social media targeting the lack of sheltering for homeless when temperatures become life threatening and demanding the county do something about it. Cold temperatures are not part of the County Disaster Plan. The County does have the ability to shelter individual shelter disaster needs but there are no current plans to open a shelter for cold weather homeless needs not deemed a disaster. There is an organization in Macon County that attempts to assist the homeless population and the County as well as DSS has financially supported Macon New Beginnings as that agency.

Patrick notified the Board of a Workman's Comp claim in regards to a social worker who was bitten by a dog while visiting a home and needed medical attention. Further discussion with county attorney and county manager is pending.

Lastly, Macon along with 9 other western counties have engaged with WCU around conducting simulations with BSW and MSW students along with our current social work staff to be able to participate. WCU has a simulation room in the Health and Human Services Building for medical students, using manikins in realistic settings. This initiative is looking at utilizing this same technique in social work. It is still in the preliminary planning stages but it is an exciting prospect that could provide better prepared students as well as refining skills for current staff.

### **Closed Session**

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

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting is rescheduled from Wednesday, January 16, 2019, to Friday, January 18, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman | Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary | Date