

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

March 15, 2017

Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Patrick Betancourt called meeting to order. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Darlene Green, Dinah Mashburn, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board and Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes. Judy Chapman was in attendance as a guest of the Board.

### **Minutes**

Open Session and Closed Session Minutes of the February meeting were approved with one correction after motion by Dinah Mashburn, second by Lisa Leatherman.

### **Financials**

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson presented the proposed DSS Budget for FY 17-18. Discussion included foster care increases, adult services needs and the presentation made at that week's County Commissioner meeting where Patrick requested Commissioners approve establishing a new foster care social worker position. Position was approved and the salary and benefits associated with that position are included in the current year end projections and added to next year's budget. Cathy reviewed the projected cost savings for the current FY with the Board. Projected county savings are approximately \$266,987. \$57,592 of these savings are in foster care and \$48,800 in Special Assistance. A portion of the total savings were offset by the hiring of the new social worker.

Highlights of the FY 17-18 budget include an overall county dollar decrease of \$43,489. This decrease includes the new social work position, a \$12,000 meal increase at Senior Services and is offset by an increase in the Indirect Cost Plan. Not included in the revenues and expenditures, a request is being made by DSS to establish a new social work position much needed in Adult Services. Senior Services is requesting one part time position to be made full time and an additional request to establish a new full time receptionist position that has been filled by volunteers up until this time. The explanation and justification for the additional positions will be made when Patrick and Cathy meet with County Manager Derek Roland and Finance Director Lori Hall in April.

Motion to accept the FY 17-18 budget was made by Dinah Mashburn, second by Lisa Leatherman with unanimous approval. Copy of budget template is attached showing Federal and State revenues. Monthly financials were provided in the Board books.

### **Program Reports**

Jennifer Alexander presented FY 15-16 statistics in the areas of Food and Nutrition, Program Integrity and Child Support. FNS caseloads have decreased with 2,390 cases as of February 2017. Jennifer explained the new focus on recerts. Workers are accessing additional training in the learning gateway for NC FAST and completing second party reviews. Program Integrity worker Chrissy Wallace continues to learn the processes and understand how to be effective in fraud hearings. Chrissy recently met with the Assistant District Attorney regarding prosecution of some cases in the near future. As a new supervisor, Jennifer explained she is still learning Child Support. She reported we currently have 867 active cases and staff continue to surpass all state goals.

**Old Business**

Patrick updated Board on Medicaid processing timeliness, the percent of MAD reports processed timely increased to 97% while all other Medicaid programs processed at 100% timely. Patrick mentioned the State Auditor spoke with the General Assembly recently on the poor DSS performance in the area of Medicaid with 10 counties having been selected for audit and revealing incorrect eligibility data both in clients receiving and not receiving benefits. Legislature was given an example with an estimated \$6,000/client annual Medicaid benefit average and the error percent applied to Guilford county alone, the error payout could be \$56 million. Patrick met with both Sheila and Jennifer and it was decided that intake workers will ask every question on every application. Instead of leaving any blanks, workers will utilize N/A or something comparable so that processors can move forward with the application more quickly rather than wait on information in those areas where there may be no answers or information available. Intake workers are to be further trained in specific questions to assist in completing applications because when it is a face-to-face interview, that is the best time to get the most accurate information. Supervisors will be examining processing as well. Patrick stated that Medicaid workers are also receiving additional training due to increased audit finds in NC. Even locally, the auditors came back several times and pulled 60 additional cases. Macon County did not have any findings. Patrick agreed to send Board members the link to the State Auditor's presentation for them to listen for more information.

**New Business**

Patrick reported on a new perinatal substance abuse initiative that is being driven by Mission Hospital system. It is a partnership with DSS, Angel Medical Center and local ob/gyn physicians since Angel has a newly enhanced women's unit and birthing center. This initiative seeks to address the issue of NAS, Neo-natal Abstinence Syndrome where mothers may be using drugs through the pregnancy with drugs affecting the fetus while in the womb and the child going through withdrawal upon birth and the concern of some mothers-to-be not receiving pre-natal care. The goal of the initiative is to provide a non-judgmental center where women can feel safe to get help prior to birth.

Patrick reminded Board of the DSS Appreciation lunch to be scheduled the same day as the next DSS Board meeting.

**Closed Session**

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

**Next Meeting**

Next Board meeting is changed to Monday, April 17, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room with Appreciation luncheon to follow.

APPROVED BY:

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Chairman | Date

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Secretary | Date