

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

March 17, 2016

Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Patrick Betancourt 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 February meeting were approved after motion by Jim Garner, and second by Lisa Leatherman.

### **Financials**

Monthly financials were provided in the Board books. Business Officer Cathy Makinson, presented the proposed budget for FY 16-17. Cathy gave a report first on the projected cost savings for FY 15-16 expected to be approximately \$252,802 which includes the hiring of a full time DSS Computer Support Tech. The proposed FY 16-17 Budget is \$67,232,221 of which county contribution is 2% at \$1,358,595 This total represents a \$37,581 decrease from FY 15-16 budget. Jim Garner made a motion to approve the budget, second by Dinah Mashburn. Motion passed unanimously. Board expressed appreciation of work completed on the budget.

**Program Reports:** No Program Reports this month as budget was to be presented.

### **Old Business**

Patrick reminded the Board that DSS was unable to purchase a new generator at prior year end due to time restrictions. He stated that recently Jim Bruckner, Steve Ledford, Jack Morgan and he met with county manager Derek Roland to discuss the possibility of the county purchasing it this fiscal year. Derek requested first that a load analysis be completed with the essentials needed during a power failure. The first step of the analysis has been completed. Steve and Jack are to review the essentials and the load it would require and report back to county manager.

Patrick gave a FNS update as we are now in the period of January-June 2016 where NC is required by USDA to achieve at least 95% in processing timeliness. He reported the state has addressed an issue with the vendor in regards to additional days being built in for households to receive EBT card by now being able to verify the households that already have an EBT card. The Macon County DSS average since October to current is 95%. We began at 92% are currently at 97% processing applications timely. Patrick took the time to recognize the efforts of the FNS staff and Supervisor Sheila Conley.

Patrick stated the Advisory Committee of SCOPE at the Senior Center has met and they are well into the process of getting certified. The SCOPE evaluating committee will visit the Center the third week in June. Scott Mathews and Rhonda Blanton of the Senior Center recently attended a meeting where they reported the progress the Center has made toward being certified. They were given positive feedback and told they are setting the bar high.

**New Business**

Patrick reported that the county was notified that Child Care Subsidy will be added to the NC FAST case management system this fall with Child Welfare being interfaced within the next two years. Additionally, Energy Assistance and Medicaid Transportation are to be added this fall.

Patrick told the Board he had finally received the Final Report from the Child and Family Services Review. Only a small sample of cases in 10 counties were reviewed by the Feds and looked at as a representative of all counties. A review process was based on a federal instrument and information was sent to ACYF who completed a second party review. The instrument looks at 7 practice outcome areas of which NC did not pass any. Secondly, the instrument looks at 7 systemic outcomes and NC did not pass any. The recurring theme from both reviews shows the data quality in NC is not sufficient to determine outcomes. The other issue is that children cannot be tracked across county lines. Feds have stated this is problematic. In the past, NC refused assistance with developing a system and have tried to create our own. NC has been under a program improvement plan for data quality for quite awhile. From the CFSR the Feds are saying that NC has to develop a program improvement plan to address these issues or NC will be financially penalized within 3 years. Patrick expressed that the Directors' Association has developed a response to the review and identified some areas that need to be addressed.

In 2014, the General Assembly required DHHS to have an evaluation of child welfare. There was a long delay in the state procuring a vendor. PCG developed an evaluation and one concern included the lack of an automated case management system. The Legislature stated this needs to be completed soon which means the time frame of having this completed may get condensed. As we move child welfare into NC FAST there will be challenges.

**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 with motion from Jim Garner, second by Lisa Leatherman.

**Next Meeting**

Next Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 9:00 am, in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

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Chairman/Date

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Secretary/Date