

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

April 20, 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 March 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, reported on the expenditures of the remaining Energy Programs. DSS was able to assist 776 households approved through Crisis at \$162,653.07, and 37 households through Haywood Electric at \$8,472.43. Additionally after opening the TANF Emergency Assistance Programs, through today, DSS assisted 70 households at \$18,776.67. Cathy stated the families receiving EA were primarily families that had not received any Energy Program Assistance this year.

### **Old Business**

Patrick reported that Macon County's FNS processing timeliness continues to exceed the new requirement averaging 98.36% over the last four weeks.

Senior Services SCOPE packet was passed to Area Agency on Aging for preliminary review. Feedback will be given and the packet will be forwarded to the state for evaluation. The site visit is scheduled for June 17, 2016.

Patrick stated the Child Process Re-Review was completed this past Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The program improvement plan which had been sent to the state addressed child welfare intake, assessments, in-home services and a few foster care issues. The Re-Review looked at how we were implementing the improvement plan and observed that several activities had already been completed. Supervisors Brian Vogl and Lisa Hilliard will evaluate what still needs to be addressed on the plan. The State will return in the fall and include review of case records.

Patrick mentioned there were several other program areas that are to be integrated into NC FAST including childcare subsidies, Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation and Energy Programs. Staff attended a webinar with Macon Transit staff to educate on provider enrollment. With NC Tracks issues, it was decided Transit would begin enrollment as soon as it opened for those providers. There has been no training as to processes as of this date. In the area of childcare, with NC FAST challenges, concern is that small providers would need to expect delays in reimbursement which could have major cash flow impact and potential was there that the smaller providers would not be able to absorb these costs.

Patrick notified the Board that our second hospital worker is now trained and will begin at Angel Medical on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also reported on the Volunteer Appreciation Event at Senior Services

held April 7, 2016 at the same time the SHIPP Program was celebrating 30 years. Two 30 year SHIPP volunteers were recognized, Dorothy and John Crawford. Approximately 50 of the 100 volunteers attended along with County Commissioner Ronnie Beale and County Manager Derek Roland. Commissioner Beale requested Sheila Jenkins along with Patrick, attend the most recent County Commissioner Meeting to present the dollars saved in Macon County through the work of these volunteers.

**Program Reports:** Gwen Taylor reported on Human Resources including turnover rates and staffing statistics. She also reported that NC Works is including new testing for all applicants which has helped DSS effectively recruit new hires. DSS has also re-evaluated our interview process and profiles to target better qualified applicants.

### **New Business**

Patrick reported on the state's reinstatement of ABAWDs' (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents). NC has had a statewide waiver until July 1, 2016 when all counties will be required to evaluate this population of clients (approximately 258 in Macon) with their timeclocks being shortened as to how long they may receive FNS benefits. There is a proposal for a regional collaboration to look at the Employment and Training Program. Southwestern Community College already has many options including job readiness, skills training, etc for ABAWDs to receive the training and allow them to extend their time for receiving benefits.

Patrick stated there has been some discussion around the Special Adoption Incentive Funds that DSS has. Suggestion has been made to utilize some of the funds to achieve permanency for 13 children that are ready for adoption by contracting additional legal services and possibly a social worker to complete the pre-assessment home studies. 10 of these children are already in their identified adoptive placement. Jim Garner motioned that DSS pursue this proposal, second by Lisa Leatherman.

Patrick made Board aware that DSS has several major monitorings and audits in the next few weeks.

### **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, May 18, 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