

Macon County Social Services Board

May 29, 2019

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order . Meeting had been rescheduled to this date and change of location to the Crawford Senior Center for Board Members to host an appreciation breakfast for those staff. 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. Additionally, a representative from the Franklin Press was in attendance.

Minutes

Minutes were deferred to next month as members needed more time to review.

Financials

Patrick presented highlights on the proposed budget for FY 19-20 which includes a 1.8 million increase over FY 18-19, an increase in the county contribution to the state retirement for employees, a recommended 1.5% COLA, the two DSS Social Workers and an increase to the county health insurance fund. Cathy Makinson updated the Board on the most recent audits.

Old Business

Patrick updated the Board on state Medicaid Transformation and gave handouts of the Fact Sheets with information that impacts counties. Macon County is scheduled for the second phase roll-out in February 2020 which will allow us to observe the first roll-out this fall. This will require most Medicaid recipients to enroll in a Health Plan for the region with open enrollment scheduled for October. Eligibility and services will not change for clients and they will have four Pre-Paid Health Plans (PHP) to choose from. DSS will continue determining eligibility and clients will connect through Maximus, the state enrollment broker. If a client does not choose on their own, they will be auto-assigned. A potential delay in the process is a suit filed by a second provider-led entity as well as a large insurance company who do not agree on the selection of PHPs process. A small sub-set of Medicaid clients will not go through the initial enrollment including those with mental health services and CAP-DA. Patrick also stated that we expect a large increase in calls with client questions regarding the PHP which we will have to redirect to the broker. This will also affect clients seeking Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT), as each PHP will work with a transportation broker. Clients will have to become accustomed to dealing with these transportation brokers. Recently MCT had conversations with the NEMT brokers who agreed to utilize their services.

Program Report

Meeting at the Senior Center today, Jennifer Hollifield invited the Board to observe the tight space where client activities take place. Discussion was held on the impacts of round-about and utility work which has definitely affected clients' attending the Center. Jennifer reported to the Board that last month, 15-20 Keller-Williams realtors/staff volunteered as part of their Red Day Volunteer Event. Volunteers delivered meals, helped in ADC and Congregate, and worked outside landscaping. They are talking about volunteering annually and maybe more regularly. Jennifer stated the Center is in need of about 40 more volunteers to assist in the Home-Delivered Meal program, especially Fridays. She also mentioned that there is a Senior Celebration scheduled on Friday, September 6, 2019, at the WCU Ramsey Center which recognizes seniors from across the region. Last year, Crawford Center took 70-75 from Macon County.

New Business

DSS Board was made aware and invited to be a part of the upcoming Elder Abuse Awareness Walk scheduled on Monday, June 17, 2019, beginning at 6pm at the downtown gazebo. This is a regional event all scheduled on the same day and time.

Patrick informed the Board on the County Administration's effort to become more energy efficient including LED lighting and assessing water consumption. He also notified the Board that Anne Hyder has agreed to be a part of the DSS Board beginning July 1, 2019 as Darlene Green's term is ending.

Closed Session

Evelyn Southard made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel information as allowed under G.S. 143-318.11. Darlene Green seconded, and motion carried.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date