

Macon County Social Services Board

July 17, 2019

Minutes

First on the agenda was the swearing in of the new DSS Board member, Anne Hyder, by Vic Perry, Clerk of Court.

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Anne Hyder, 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. Lisa Leatherman was voted Chair of the Board after nomination by Evelyn Southard, second by Anne Hyder. Monthly meeting dates and time were confirmed to continue meeting the third Wednesday of each month at 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room.

Minutes

June minutes were approved on motion by Lisa Leatherman and second by Evelyn Southard.

Financials

Monthly financials were provided in the Board books. Revenues and expenditures are still being posted for FY 18-19.

Old Business

Patrick gave an update on the Medicaid Transformation. Macon is scheduled as part of Phase II to begin open enrollment in October with enrollment packets being mailed to clients in September. It is possible that the process timeline could be tied to the state budget approval. However DHHS continues to move forward with Phase I. Since opening the enrollment period, there have been recipients enrolled, going back and changing the plan they initially chose. Patrick gave a brief explanation of this Medicaid change to Anne Hyder as a new Board member. After NCDHHS reached out to Macon DSS last month to host a possible staff training for the 7 western counties, no facility was available so the training was scheduled in Buncombe County during August. Patrick displayed the NC Medicaid Plan website to show it is up and running, including a mobile app link, online application link and contact information.

Patrick provided the Board with a WLOS television spotlight on the REAL project with WCU School of Social Work which included a former Macon Social Worker going through the simulation of a realistic situation social workers may encounter in a home visit. Their responses are evaluated and given guidance as to how they could improve their interaction with a similar encounter. Directors are still hopeful that the State will allow this training to substitute for pre-service training for social workers who are required to attend 72 hours of training before they can begin casework. The news article also included more information on the Cherokee County DSS in regards to recent news of missing documents and Board minutes. Patrick assured the Board that Macon follows the Retention Schedule provided by the State and that we have maintained Board minutes from the early 1900's in the vault.

Program Report

No Program Reports were given this month.

New Business

Patrick reported on the recent monitoring of Adoption Assistance and SSBG, TANF to SSBG foster children. After receiving the monitoring results which included a finding, he notified the Board that DSS is appealing the finding where the monitor disagreed on eligibility in a TANF to SSBG case and felt the child was IV-E eligible.

This affects both the room and board payment as well as administrative costs associated with case management time. Patrick will share state response once it is received.

Patrick informed the Board that DSS had received a serious threat of violence against an employee and the whole agency. Once it was reported, law enforcement was contacted who felt DSS needed to press charges. The individual was arrested in Cherokee County and transferred to Macon County jail under a \$25,000 bail. Patrick reminded the Board of several security improvements DSS has already made but recognize more could be added. Patrick has asked Don Willis of the Sheriff's Department to complete a walk-through of DSS and identify security needs and prioritize his suggestions. Mr. Willis has already provided this to the Senior Services building. Once we receive his report, it will be shared with the Board. DSS, along with Health and County IT, met with Smoky Mountain Systems for information on the current security system and enhancements that were needed. A follow up meeting is to be scheduled.

Patrick stated an appeal has been made on a Medicaid finding and we hope to have a response today from the state division.

Closed Session

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

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2019, at 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date