

Macon County Social Services Board

July 18, 2018

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called meeting to order. 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.

Minutes

Evelyn Southard made motion to approve June minutes, second by Darlene Green, minutes approved.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson updated the Board on the new Uniform Guidance requirements with regard to purchasing/contracting goods and services. County Finance has put a local policy in place that corresponds with the policy sent from the State Auditor's office. Cathy also presented two contracts for adoption social workers who are able to complete home studies and assessments to support our one adoption/licensing social worker and therefore speeding up the process for foster home licensing, relicensing and kinship placements. Motion to approve the contracts was made by Evelyn Southard, seconded by Darlene Green, contracts approved. Year-end financials are still being posted with final report to be presented in September. Cathy also updated on the RFQ for legal services. We received one interested attorney who has been the attorney we have contracted with for several years, so contract was renewed for FY 18-19. Financials were provided in Board books.

Program Reports

No Program Reports at this time.

Old Business

Patrick updated the Board on the DHHS MOU that the legislature required counties to enter into in regards to performance measures in all program areas except Medicaid. There has been a lot of discussion with directors emphasizing to the state division that if there are required measurements then the request is made of the state to increase access to training and to provide accurate data. The MOU is supposed to be effective July 1, 2018. Several counties submitted the MOU with documentation that this was not a collaborative effort. Patrick presented to the County Commissioners who agreed for Patrick to sign on behalf of the county and requested notice of any performance issues. As DHHS received the MOUs, they rejected the MOUs that had additional documentation. Ours is fully executed with an effective date of 7/1/18. DHHS expects data measurements to be available in August to evaluate for accuracy and make sure counties are on track prior to January 2019 when agencies will be held accountable for performance measures.

David Smith updated the Board on the CVA issue in Cherokee County. Macon workers have worked through both conflict cases and closed them. David had been contacted about several more conflict cases with one declined, another was transferred to the county where the child resides. David stated he meets regularly with Patrick to staff these requests as they are received. Patrick reported he had met with several DSS Directors and Deputy Secretary Michael Becketts yesterday. Mr. Becketts had presented to the Cherokee County Commissioners the night prior. Discussion ensued on the definition

of dependency and also the question of how many more of these CVA cases are anticipated. The State feels the 6 surrounding counties have more direct access and can act quickly. Directors stated it may not be as efficient because of the drain on local resources where larger counties may have additional staff available. The Division of Social Services has stated they will consider any CVA case as a conflict case as they are discovered.

David also reported on the NC FAST P4 status and informed the Board that the State continues to update the system and with every system update, it increases more issues with the system so workers are not seeing productive progress. David stated the workers are doing well overall and dealing with it and using work arounds to complete the work. There is no future date at this time as to when the State plans to move forward and include more counties. Macon has a State liaison on-site two days a week providing support which has been extremely helpful in resolving some of the system issues. State informed Patrick that IBM will not be coming on-site at this time, that they visited some of the counties surrounding Raleigh area.

New Business

Patrick informed the Board that the annual planning meeting for the Energy Program is scheduled on September 20th. Providers are invited to attend for the process to be explained and questions to be answered. Agreements for Providers to sign had been sent and afterward, the State revised the agreement. It was decided just to send out the revision without another full agreement and providers could contact DSS with any additional concerns. DSS is looking at adding restrictions to the program this year to have more funds available to more households and less repeat applications.

Patrick made the Board aware of a current situation with a therapeutic foster home licensed by another agency where Macon had a foster child placed. Decision was made to move the child and as a result the foster mother had put out confidential information on social media and threatened to contact other media sources saying DSS is not taking care of their children. Today, our social worker, Stacey Jenkins had traveled to move the child and drama continues to unfold. Mobile Crisis Unit and Law Enforcement were contacted and were on-site providing support. Patrick will follow up with additional information to the Board.

Closed Session

Evelyn Southard made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and confidential case information. Darlene Green seconded, and motion carried.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date