Macon County Social Services Board
August 15, 2018
Minutes

Call to Order
Patrick Betancourt called meeting to order. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Darlene Green, Evelyn Southard, and Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board. Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes was on excused absence. Patrick made the Board aware of the need to periodically step out of the meeting to take phone calls as a water line to the Crawford Senior Center had been broken the day before by the utility company working on Wayah Street.

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

Financials
As Business Officer, Cathy Makinson was not present for the meeting the Board decided that financials would be reviewed in September. Issues to be specifically addressed in September included an update for end-of-year closeout as well as Special Assistance Medicaid budget. Financials were provided in Board books with Evelyn Southard, Retired County Fiscal Director, providing a brief overview on understanding line item numbering system on budget reports.

Program Reports
Lisa Hilliard, Foster Care and Adult Services Supervisor provided an update on NC FAST P4 experience from her team's perspective.

Old Business
Patrick updated the Board on the Special Assistance (SA) Medicaid monitoring conducted by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) that occurred on April 9-10. Patrick explained that while there was no corrective action plan as a result of monitoring findings, there were 5 cases with identified county over-payment errors totaling $10,167.50. Rebuttals on 4 of the 5 cases were provided to DAAS along with a statement of concern regarding the lack of training and support for the SA Program. The rebuttals put forward were reviewed by DAAS who reduced the overall error payback amount by $4,063 to $6,104.50 (only 1/2 of which the county will be responsible for as its portion of the payback amount).

Patrick provided the Board an update on the complaint letter submitted to the NC Social Work Certification and Licensure Board (NCSWCLB) regarding the breach of confidentiality by a foster child's former foster mother who is also licensed as a Clinical Social Worker. Patrick explained that a representative from the NCSWCLB called yesterday to indicate that they would be investigating the complaint and that they felt it necessary to view the videos. Patrick explained that while the NCSWCLB has statutory authority to request confidential information to investigate complaints, he still sent a *Request for Confidential Information* for the Board to sign and return before sending the videos of the foster child that the former foster parent had posted on social media. Patrick also explained that as a result of this breach of confidentiality as well as the breach of confidential information by a former Guardian ad Litem volunteer in a different case, a letter had been sent to all private child placing agencies with whom Macon County works. The letter included a reminder of federal and state laws on confidentiality and that foster families working for the agencies were bound by those requirements. The letter also strongly encouraged private agencies to ensure that their families understood child welfare confidentiality requirements.

Finally, Patrick updated the Board that Macon County's Work First Electing County Plan for SFYs 2019-2022 was approved by the NC Division of Social Services. A copy of the approval letter was sent to the Welfare Reform Committee.

New Business
Patrick informed the Board of the upcoming child welfare listening session taking place at the Jackson County Library on September 19th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The listening session is being advertised by the NC Division of Social Services for communities to weigh in on how the state can improve service delivery in three areas: safety, permanence, and well-being outcomes; services to high risk populations; and post-adoption services. Of course suggestions in other areas will be welcome as well but these are the three focus areas specifically mentioned by the Division.

Patrick informed the Board that he was made aware last week that The NC DAAS had named one of its statewide awards for Dorothy Crawford. From NC DAAS: "The *Dorothy R. Crawford Award* which recognizes an individual or organization that has developed innovative strategies related to or had a significant impact on the lives of older adults through Adult Protective Services or guardianship." Once made aware, Patrick informed the County Manager and the Commissioner Liaison to the Board of County Commissioners. Patrick was then contacted by the County Manager who asked if Mrs. Crawford could be recognized by the Board of County Commissioners at their regular meeting Tuesday, August 15, 2018. Lisa Leatherman, Board Chair, also attended the meeting last night.

Patrick informed the Board that there would be NC Association of County Boards of Social Services (NCACBSS) new board member training October 17th in Hickory, NC during the 2018 Social Services Institute. Evelyn was invited to attend the training this October.

Finally, Patrick reminded the Board members that the second *No Wrong Door* initiative meeting was being held Thursday, August 16th at 2:00 p.m. at Entegra Corporate Offices. This initiative being led by Commissioner Beale is a community effort to address helping families navigate both substance use and mental health concerns. Patrick explained that he would be unable to attend but that Lisa Hilliard, David Smith, and Don Capaforte would be attending and representing the Dept. of Social Services.

Closed Session
Lisa Leatherman made a 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, September 19, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

_____   _____
Chairman | Date   Secretary | Date