

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

August 20, 2015

Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Jim Garner called meeting to order as Chair Dinah Mashburn was absent due to illness. Members in attendance were Jim Garner, and Lisa Leatherman, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, and Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes.

### **Minutes**

Open Session and Closed Session Minutes of the July 15, 2015 Board Meeting were deferred for review to next month as Chair was not present to sign following approval.

### **Financials**

Monthly financials for July were provided to the Board, no questions at this time.

Patrick reported he had just received a Dear County Director Letter the prior evening in regards to the Continuing Resolution which is continued to August 31, 2015. The letter stated that Federal revenues would continue as normal including the quarterly allocations, however State revenues would be dispersed on a monthly allocation schedule. This means all quarterly State allocations will be changed to monthly allocation and will cause many manual adjustments until State budget is passed and Funding Authorizations are received.

Business Officer presented Annual Benefit Comparison of FY 14-15.

### **Old Business**

Patrick updated Board on USDA requirements of timeliness in FNS processing. Currently the State is at the 85% requirement but will be required to meet the 95% requirement in January 2016. Patrick received a letter from the State last night requiring each county to submit a plan stating how they plan to achieve this goal. Failure of the State to reach the 95% goal could cause a decrease in Federal reimbursements and the state could potentially lose up to 88 million dollars. NC is not the only state to receive this warning as 15 jurisdictions are under a plan of correction.

Patrick stated that he and Lisa Hilliard had met with the Coordinator of the Fostering Health Initiative reported on last month and one of the benefits realized from this project would be that medical information on foster children would be available to all counties to utilize as needed. Regional Directors meeting concern is the limited funds to continue implementing this service ongoing.

Patrick reported on Child Care subsidies as the next program to be transitioned into NC FAST. Discussion was held at the regional Directors meeting yesterday as this service is delegated to SWCDC, Inc. for Region A. All western Directors sit on the SWCDC Board and as this group has several new members, the Executive Director of SWCDC, Sheila

Hoyle will give a presentation on the differing county models within the region. It appears that the western region will still be able to continue utilizing their services with the transition into NC FAST.

Patrick reported that the change of Supervised Visitation to Vanguard appears to be going smoothly. As well as contracting with a retired Macon County DSS Social Worker to assist with emergency out of town transportation of foster children.

**New Business**

Patrick along with Brian Vogl and Lisa Hilliard met recently with Chuck Harris regarding future process of quality assurance in child welfare. All recognized the need for continuing quality improvement process. Patrick mentioned this meeting to the western Directors who met yesterday and all agreed to explore the possibility of having a western regional representative for this process that all 8 counties could employ and utilize.

The western Directors also met with Mental Health Providers regarding sharing feedback of services provided and how that feedback could flow both ways. Macon is unique in that they are able to involve providers at their weekly staffing to discuss local needs.

Patrick reported that KIDS Place has filled the vacancy of a medical provider for the child medical exams so that we no longer have to go to Asheville.

Patrick also reported that Sheila Jenkins of Senior Services has given info to our attorney to review of the possibility of having list of credentialed In Home Aides available through the Community Resource Center.

Patrick provided the draft Foster Care Policy regarding rates for pre-licensed, court approved foster homes and asked for comments and approval next month.

**Closed Session**

Lisa Leatherman made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and confidential case information. Jim Garner seconded, and motion carried. Board returned from Closed Session.

**Next Meeting**

Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

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Chairman/Date

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Secretary/Date