

Macon County Social Services Board

June 17, 2015

Minutes

Call to Order

Dinah Mashburn called meeting to order. Members in attendance were Dinah Mashburn, Chair, Jim Garner and Lisa Leatherman. Also attending were Jane Kimsey, Director and Secretary to the Board, new Director Patrick Betancourt, and Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes for the new Secretary to the Board.

Minutes

Open Session and Closed Session Minutes of the May 20, 2015 Board meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved on motion of Jim Garner and second by Lisa Leatherman.

Financials

Monthly financials for April were provided in Board book. Board was asked if they wished to continue having the monthly financials provided in their books and they all affirmed.

Jane reported the County Budget approval by County Commissioners was delayed until next Tuesday, June 23.

Jane reported on the possible purchase of a generator prior to fiscal year end. During power failure the prior week it was determined that the original generator installed in the Human Services building cannot carry the current load. There were many issues with computers, printers, and IT connections. Jane and new Director Patrick met with Steve Ledford from Maintenance and Andy Muncey, IT Director to determine what the current and future need is. It was recommended to replace with a diesel generator at a cost of \$42,000 or possibly a dual natural gas/diesel generator at \$60,000. Health Department may have some funds to contribute to this purchase. Lisa Leatherman recommended going with the natural gas for more efficiency and no concerns with fuel supply and expense, lower cost long term. There will be an additional \$5,000 expense to wire and change breaker. All recognized the need so there is no loss of production, equipment, and vaccines needing refrigeration.

Discussion was held in regards to the contract with SWCDC, Inc. who has been the third party administrator of the Macon Visitation program. MPP has provided the space and some of the MPP staff were contract employees under the supervision of SWCDC. Following a discussion with Chuck Sutton with MPP, a review of contract deliverables was conducted and discussion was held with SWCDC's Shelia Hoyle regarding their continued participation in this service. Ms. Hoyle advised they are not interested in providing this service next fiscal year as Macon County was the only county that continued to provide a supervised visitation program. MPP is open to possibly providing this service. Patrick will be exploring this option with Chuck Sutton. Jim Garner made

motion to amend the Contract List to substitute MPP for SWCDC for the visitation program, Lisa Leatherman seconded. Motion carried.

Cathy Makinson reported on WFBG Cash savings for year end. Approximately \$48,000 remained even with the additional purchases made in May. Proposed plan is to continue monitoring closely next fiscal year and possibly identify additional services that could be utilized in child welfare.

Program Reports

Brian Vogl presented the Child Protective Services program report from the FY'13-'14 Performance Report. Brian noted one correction, the total number of assists were not 70 but 42. There was an 18% increase in total reports from 565 to 668. 16% increase in 294 reports accepted and a 61% increase in screened out reports. Brian stated he was exploring why the screened out reports are continuing to increase when they are following same criteria, possibly a community education issue and certainly some mental health issues. However, he stated he personalizes each screen out letter to reporter for educational purposes rather than using a form letter. Surrounding counties are experiencing the same increases, especially with families moving back and forth between neighboring counties. Additionally, an increased number of domestic violence victims from Jackson County now reside in Macon County as there is no longer a residence in Jackson and those requests come in as assists. 20 families received In-Home Services with only 3 of those families moving into custody. Brian spoke about the benefit of us bringing in Youth Villages a couple years ago with 23 cases referred to that agency and only 1 child moving into custody and that one child had only been assessed, no services had begun. This year there has been a concentrated effort to utilize In Home Services, especially now that we have staff with more experience in this area. Currently there are 15-16 receiving In Home Services. Brian stated we are committed to front loading services to keep children with their family and that we are closing 22% of the cases as having addressed the issues and "services no longer needed". The increase in children taken into custody is primarily due to more complicated issues as the dynamics have changed over the last 5 years. Patrick stated that NC doesn't currently have evidenced-based In Home practice model but has begun exploring options for evidence-based models. NC chose not to adopt the shift at the same time they are trying to automate Services in NC FAST system.

Old Business

Motion was made by Jim Garner to adopt the Program Integrity Policy that was discussed at the last Board meeting and emailed to DSS Board members. Lisa Leatherman seconded. Motion approved.

Patrick informed the Board of the letter he had sent to NCDSS in response to the Economic Services Management Evaluation review on 5/26/15, accepted on 6/2/15 with improvement plan. Follow up review will be in December.

Northwoods focus group was conducted with our social workers to determine other efficiencies not determined by the time study. It was determined even given the

shortened time frame of February with loss of days and short month that we appear to be on track in saving time and increasing output. The more Child Welfare workers use the system, the more advantages and time efficiencies will become realized. It was recognized that the skill set required for these workers is changing to be able to operate in an automated environment. One Social Worker had commented that implementing the mobility phase has been the best thing to help them with their increasing caseload. The time study was based solely on Co-Pilot (mobile platform) and did not consider the benefits of having the info available in Pilot (office desktop platform). State has expressed that whatever system they decide on for case management, that Northwoods will be able to interface.

New Business

Patrick reported that directors were not shown the Child Welfare demo in NCFAST last week in Raleigh and noted that with the difficulties agencies experienced when Economic Services converted to NC FAST, the State is collaborating with counties before making system changes. The Senate has proposed that NCFAST cannot be utilized for child welfare, that DSS has to use a product proven in another state; the software program developed by IBM Cúram (on which NC FAST has been built) has been previously used in Canada. The purpose of incorporating child welfare into NCFAST is to have a seamless, enterprise approach to communication between Child Welfare services and Economic Services and allow counties to see when families move to a different county and the services they were receiving. Patrick has expressed an interest in being a pilot county so that a rural county and a county already utilizing Northwoods can be involved in trial process.

Motion was made by Dinah Mashburn to reappoint Lisa Leatherman to a second term on the DSS Board, second by Jim Garner. Motion approved.

Jane reported we had just received the annual Fiscal Monitoring report from the DSS State Monitor and showed no errors or deficiencies.

Secretary reported attending a conference call with County Manager and NCDSS on NCFAST on Medicaid and Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). NC has to comply with USDA FNS Program Improvement benchmarks or be financially penalized. Patrick discussed the potential for exploring a pilot of same day processing being tested in other counties. If NC does not show improvement to USDA, we stand to lose \$44 million federal and \$44 million county. Currently it takes approximately 15 days for non-emergency applications to be processed. Policy states you have 30 days to have the benefits in the hand of the client. Macon DSS is set up with intake separate from processing which will require some planning and potential re-configuring if same day processing is to be considered.

Motion to approve Macon DSS Energy Outreach Plan for FY 15-16 was made by Dinah Mashburn, second by Jim Garner. Motion approved. Community Outreach Meeting is scheduled for 9/24/2015.

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, July 15 at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

Dinab Mashlumi, 7-15-15 [Signature] 07-15-2015
Chairman/Date Secretary/Date