



Macon County Social Services Board

Friday, Dec. 20, 2024

Regular Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members in attendance included Mike Williams, Anne Hyder, Patrick Betancourt (Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board), Beneth Aiken (Agency HR), and Lynne Kurimay (Business Officer). Cara Smith was not present due to an excused absence.

Proposed Agenda

Proposed Agenda was approved on motion of Mike Williams and second by Anne Hyder.

Minutes

November minutes were approved on motion of Mike Williams and second by Anne Hyder.

Financial Update/Energy Assistance Update



Lynne Kurimay reported that the agency has received funds from the state due to Hurricane Helene. However, it will be difficult to effectively utilize all of these funds due to the restrictions imposed by the state. Anne Hyder inquired about ensuring that any needs in the Highlands and Nantahala are assessed for use of the funds. Patrick Betancourt mentioned that we have a reliable contact in Highlands for addressing needs, but have not received any requests from the Nantahala community. He stated that we will encourage our employees who engage with those communities to seek information regarding any unaddressed needs. Lynne has recently met with Cathy Makinson (contract fiscal advisor and energy worker) and participated in a webinar regarding crisis energy assistance funds. She explained that energy assistance for regular crisis energy funds experienced a significant cut in funding from the state. Lynne and Cathy have also begun the preliminary conversations for the upcoming fiscal year budget.

Personnel Update/Agency Exits Data

Beneth Aiken shared personnel updates. There was one departures from the agency: Jody Brock transferred to Macon County Health Department. There were two promotions within the agency: Chelsie Daves and Jonie Styles received promotions to Income Maintenance II workers. The agency welcomed Maria String to the Medicaid unit. The agency welcomed Christina Shepherd to the Food and Nutrition unit. There were no personnel changes at Senior Services. Employee retention strategies were discussed pertaining to the upcoming budget request.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Williams and second by Anne Hyder.

APPROVED BY:

 Jan. 17, 2025  1/17/25
Executive Officer/Secretary Date Chairman Date