

Macon County Social Services Board

March 17, 2010

Minutes

Social Services Board met this date for regular monthly meeting. Members in attendance were Dom D'Ascoli, Wendy Dalton, Mark West and Director/Secretary.

Chairman D'Ascoli called meeting to order.

Minutes

Minutes, both Open and Closed Sessions, of the February 17, 2010 board meeting were reviewed and approved on motion of Wendy Dalton, second by Mark West.

Financials

Cathy Makinson, Business Officer, presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget. Included in the proposed budget are transitioning of child support from state administration to county administration; additional Special Assistance beds due to expansion at Grandview Manor; additional food and nutrition caseworker due to increased eligibility income levels; and, finalization of capital expenditure plan to purchase computers and chairs. Overall increase in county funds requested is \$62,347 which includes the Special Assistance (SA) increase of \$70,000; therefore, the county dollars would have decreased from the current fiscal year budget if not for the mandated 50% match for SA. Total county funds requested are 9.5% of the total budget of \$14,892,071 and increased 4.4% over last year's approved county funds. Mark West made motion to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget, Wendy Dalton seconded and motion carried. Appreciation was expressed to Cathy Makinson for development of a fiscally responsible budget during tough economic conditions.

Old Business

Child Support Enforcement transition from the state to the county was approved to occur on May 1, 2010; however, at this time only one experienced child support agent may accept employment. Recommendation was to defer the transition until June 1 or preferably July 1 when the other counties are transitioned. Board concurred given the necessity to hire at least 2 child support agents.

New Business

Board authorized request to Office of State Personnel for delegation of authority to qualify Child Support Agent I, Child Support Agent II, Lead Child Support Agent and Human Services Planner Evaluator II on motion of Mark West and second by Wendy Dalton.

Expansion to the Vanguard Professional Services was requested. These contracted social work services have been critical to maintain the face to face foster child visits under the state standards. Contracted services are much more efficient than sending foster care workers to foster children placements all over the state. State and federal reimbursement is received on these contracted services. Wendy Dalton made motion to approve a

\$15,000 increase in the Vanguard Professional Services contract, Mark West seconded and motion carried.

Board was briefly updated on The Benefit Bank, a screening tool for federal benefits that has been provided to counties in the east and as far west as Watauga County. Due to the anticipated increase in Food and Nutrition workload, this screening tool could assist in getting benefits to the eligible households more efficiently. Identified sites to potentially host The Benefit Bank are Senior Services/Community Resource Center, JobLink, CareNet, Angel Medical Center and the Free Clinic. Orientation session and training will be provided to certify identified counselors in this web-based screening tool.

Closed Session

Wendy Dalton made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters and contracts, Mark West seconded, and motion carried. Board returned from Closed Session.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14 at 9:00 in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date