

Macon County Social Services Board
October 20, 2010
Minutes

Social Services Board met this date for regular monthly meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Dalton. In attendance were Wendy Dalton, Mark West, Jim Garner and Jane Kimsey.

Minutes

Closed Session Minutes of the August 18, 2010 board meeting were reviewed and approved on motion of Mark West, second by Jim Garner. Open and Closed Session Minutes of the September 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved on motion of Jim Garner, second by Mark West.

Financials

Monthly financials were briefly reviewed. Monthly revenues and expenditures are on target.

Reports

Medicaid and Food & Nutrition Services case management reports were reviewed. Caseloads continue to rise except in Medicaid Long Term Care, which cases have declined slightly. Low Income Energy Assistance and Crisis Intervention, both heating assistance programs, begin November 1st.

Old Business

Board procedures section from the Handbook for County Social Services Boards was briefly discussed as follow-up from the August board meeting, and members decided to continue board meetings as currently being conducted.

Updates on ePASS and Benefit Bank, program benefits screening tools, were provided. ePASS continues to only have Food & Nutrition information available for an individual to screen online, with the goal of having Medicaid available in the near future. Plans are to also provide online applications for economic services at this site too. Benefit Bank now has Medicaid and other programs available for screening, but this screening has to be completed by counselor online at the Benefit Bank site.

New Business

Director informed Board of the DHHS Excels initiative which establishes a common vision, mission and values statements for all of the DHHS Departments. 5 strategic performance goals were established that all of the DHHS services are aligned with. Focus is now on services, not programs. To ensure openness, transparency and performance management, a new website entitled DHHS Open Window is under construction. This website will provide accountability measures for all DHHS operations

including local DSS offices. When this website is functioning, a demo will be provided for the Board.

Director also reported on the Medicaid Simplification Workgroup that Sheila Conley, Angie Phillips and Director are serving on. This workgroup is currently reviewing a common Medicaid application for all programs, which would be the application used on ePASS. Other efficiency measures are being considered such as categorical eligibility, streamlining of predeterminations and eliminating forms.

The 7 western DSS Directors met with the 7 western School Superintendents regarding services to high risk children. Meeting was called to adopt a memorandum of agreement on a protocol for children that are at imminent risk of removal from their homes and their school. As a result of this meeting another meeting of Social Work Supervisors, Mental Health Professionals and School Counselors was held with the purpose of developing a regional approach to meeting children's needs before they reach the imminent risk of removal category. Overall improved communications have resulted from these meetings of schools, mental health and social services.

Editorial from the Charlotte News and Observer focused on protecting children from abuse was shared with Board. Raleigh News and Observer also printed a story over the weekend focusing on the protection of children. Media attention is result of a missing 10-year-old that a DSS in another county had received an abuse referral on prior to the child being reported as missing.

Closed Session

Mark West made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss confidential case information, personnel matters and contracts, Jim Garner seconded, and motion carried. Board returned from Closed Session.

Next Meeting

Next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 17th at 9:00 in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date