



## **Macon County Social Services Board**

Friday, September 20, 2024

Open Session 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 Cara Smith, Mike Williams, Anne Hyder, Patrick Betancourt (Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board), Beneth Aiken, Amy Sanderfur and Lynne Kurimay. Contracted fiscal staff member, Cathy Makinson was also in attendance.

### **Proposed Agenda**

Proposed Agenda was approved on motion of Cara Smith and second by Mike Williams.

### **Minutes**

August minutes were approved on motion of Cara Smith and second by Mike Williams.

### **Financial/Budget Update**

Cathy provided some historical data regarding how the budget is determine and discussed the close out information for SFY 2023-2024. Members of the Board received a copy of the analysis and asked follow-up questions. Cathy also provided an explanation of how the Senior Services budget is managed separately despite Senior Services being “under the umbrella” of the Dept. of Social Services. Also discussed was the benefit that receiving grants brings to their operations. Cathy was able to further explain how both foster care and special assistance programs financial needs are challenging to predict. Noting that this is made increasingly difficult to manage due to the changes that come down to us from both federal and state legislation that limit uncapped funding sources such as Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Cathy shared with the Board that there were no findings during the most recent NC DHHS fiscal audit, which is a major accomplishment given the complexities of the budget.

### **Local Child Welfare Non-Profit Discussion**

Patrick reported to the Board that there are several local non-profit organizations that work with the child welfare unit at the Dept. of Social Services including: Kaylee’s Closet, Together We Can, and Magnolia Mission. He shared each organization’s main focus is within the fostering community and explained that the Dept. sought to bring each non-profit organization together with the agency in order to reach greater collaboration but there have been some challenges. Anne Hyder inquired about each organization’s 501(c)(3) status and if there are and DHHS guidelines around the Department’s working relationship with non-profit organizations. Patrick explained that to his understanding each of the three organizations discussed were, in fact, tax-exempt non-profits as defined under the U.S. tax code and that there are no guidelines on how county departments of social services interface with non-profit organizations.

### **Personnel Update/Agency Exits Data**

Beneth Aiken shared personnel updates. There was one departure from the agency, Amy Sanderfur retired from the Administrative Officer II position. There was one promotion within the agency: Maureen Pruett to Social Worker III. There was one transfer within the agency, Daniela Perez Garcia to Food and Nutrition. The agency will be welcoming two new employees: Chasity Burns to the Food and



Nutrition unit and Candy Weirick to the Adult Medicaid unit. There were no personnel changes at Senior Services.

Patrick added that DHHS announced that they have awarded the child specialty plan to Blue Cross and Blue Shield to include the mental and behavioral health fields. He shared his concerns and the affect that this decision could have on the families that we serve given our close working relationship with Vaya Health. The upcoming board meeting schedule was also reviewed. The next meeting remains as scheduled, Friday, October 18, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Motion to move into closed session was made by Anne Hyder, seconded by Mike Williams.

Motion to return from closed session was made by Anne Hyder, seconded by Cara Smith.

APPROVED BY:

	<u>Oct. 25, 2024</u>		<u>10/25/24</u>
Executive Officer/Secretary	Date	Chairman	Date