

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

January 20, 2022

### **Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending via Zoom were: Dale West and Anne Hyder. Meeting in person were Evelyn Southard, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes, connecting with Board members through the Zoom virtual platform

Patrick Betancourt submitted one additional agenda item for closed session. Agenda was approved on motion of Dale West and second by Evelyn Southard.

#### **Minutes**

Minutes were approved on motion of Anne Hyder and second by Dale West.

#### **Financials/**

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, reported to the Board that DHHS had notified counties that there would be an additional 2.1 million dollars to be applied to child welfare salary and benefits in the current FY. Next year, there will be an additional 1.9 million for the same purpose. On the 100 county call yesterday, the state showed the formula being used to bridge the IV-E funding loss in congregational care with children who are placed after October 1, 2021 and following 14 days stay. In the current FY, counties will be responsible for 33% and next FY that will increase to 50% county expense, unless mental health authorizes the placement and it meets certain criteria. Financials were provided in the board books.

#### **Energy Assistance**

The LIEAP energy program has provided additional "pandemic LIEAP funds", which will be used prior to continuing with regular LIEAP funds. The NCF system is experiencing issues with the state's automatic payments to vendors and also causes difficulty in the daily reconciliation. DHHS sent letters to all approved recipients weeks prior to dispersing the funds and clients are calling daily wanting to know when their credit will be applied.

#### **Covid Impacts**

Patrick presented this update as Page was unable to attend the meeting today. Unlike the first surge of Covid in 2020, this variant which so contagious has caused major staff shortages within the department. Additionally, the county has adopted the new definition of vaccinated by the CDC and their new guidelines which is adding to the shortage. Patrick shared a graph detailing our vaccination rates as a department (attached). The county is asking departments to check with the Health Department on all return to work approvals. County HR is being required to track Covid daily per OSHA.

#### **Personnel Updates/Turnover Rate**

Patrick provided an updated Agency Turnover Rate graph which includes two additional SW resignations. Renee Hamett is returning to her home county of Cherokee and our intake worker, Elsa McCowan, is leaving to work in equine therapy with veterans which is her passion. Kayla Noyes, the Nutrition Site Supervisor at Senior Services is joining to the Health Department in January. New employees include Alexis Witt, a CPS social worker and Donnie Chapman who will be supervising the Adult Day Program at Senior Services. Patrick mentioned that a county commissioner had notified him of a complaint that the Senior Services is not open. Jennifer Hollifield created a long list of all the activities available to the public even though the Center is closed. The target date to re-open the Adult Day Program is March 1<sup>st</sup>, with limited use.

**Closed Session**

Anne Hyder made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss case information as allowed Under G.S. 143-318.11. Dale West seconded, and motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

Next Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 17, 2022, in the Admin Conference Room. Motion to adjourn made by Evelyn Southard, second by Anne Hyder.

APPROVED BY:

Evelyn Southard 2/17/22      [Signature] 2/19/22  
Chairman/Date                                      Secretary/Date