

Macon County Social Services Board

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Regular Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending were Dale West, Anne Hyder, Page McCurry (Clerk to the Board), Patrick Betancourt (Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board), and Amy Sanderfur (Administrative Officer). Stacey Jenkins, Sheila Conley, Lynne Kurimay, Sergio Falconi, Mike Williams and Shawna T. Lamb were guests in attendance.

Oath of Office

Shawna T. Lamb, Clerk of Court, delivered the Oath of Office for incumbent Department of Social Services Board Member Mike Williams.

Introductions

Patrick Betancourt introduced present members of his Department of Social Services Leadership Team to newly appointed Board Member Mike Williams.

Election/Board Training

Page McCurry opened the floor for discussion about the role of Chairman of the Department of Social Services Board. Patrick Betancourt discussed the committees the Chairman of the Department of Social Services Board serves, CCPT and CFPT. Dale West nominated Anne Hyder to serve as the Chairman of the Macon County Social Services Board for fiscal year 2023-2024. This was seconded by Mike Williams. Patrick Betancourt and Page McCurry led a discussion about training opportunities for new Board members offered through the School of Government, and Page McCurry shared information with Mike Williams about upcoming on demand training.

Proposed Agenda

Agenda was approved on motion of Dale West and second by Anne Hyder.

Minutes

June minutes were approved on motion of Dale West, second by Mike Williams.

Finance/Budget Update

Administrative Officer, Amy Sanderfur, informed the Board that the 1571 has been successfully uploaded to the state for the month of June. Amy discussed that there are no final figures available for fiscal year 2022/2023 at this time, and that she is learning more in her new role every day. Patrick discussed a contract meeting planned with Cathy Makinson for August 8, 2023 to finalize plans to consult with Cathy 15 hours per week to assist with Department of Social Services financials and continued training with Amy Sanderfur. Patrick explained that initial contract period will be for three months, and the department will choose to extend this time frame as needed. Patrick presented a Finance Primer to the Board. This primer reviewed Social Services funding information including the importance of the DSS-1571, Daysheets, and Child Welfare IV-E vs. IV-B Funding, Medicaid Expansion, and the Medicaid 75/25 Gap. Patrick explained to the Board that the DSS-1571 is the mechanism by which the Department receives reimbursement for the administration of 30+ social services program areas. Patrick discussed North Carolina's use of Daysheets for time reporting accountability of Social Services activities. Patrick informed the Board of the different federal funding sources for child welfare services, including IV-E, IV-B and

TANF. Patrick informed the Board of the Medicaid Expansion funding and explained that Division of Health Benefits has provided funding up front to counties in North Carolina as a bridge for the time period between May and September, because funding from Healthcare Access and Stabilization is expected to begin in October. Patrick explained that Department of Social Services SFY 2023-2024 budget included 3 additional Income Maintenance Caseworker positions that will be covered 100% by the State budget appropriation through State Fiscal Year 2027. Patrick discussed that in 2022 the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services stopped North Carolina's cross-cutting 75% enhanced claiming and required DHHS to identify specific Enrollment & Eligibility activities that are approved for 75% claiming. The new requirements for 75% claiming of Medicaid services created a monthly gap of approximately \$11,000.00 per month, but counties are to be held harmless in their budget gaps until 2024. Macon County received gap coverage funding from the state for SFY 2024, and Patrick explained to the Board that future Macon County DSS budgets will be reflective of this gap in funding. Mike Williams asked Patrick how Medicaid programs and Daysheets are audited. Patrick explained Single County Audits, Fiscal Audits, and Regional Audits.

Personnel Updates/Agency Exits

Page informed the Board of the internal promotions of Kiersten Brendel SW III for Foster Care, and Bea Mesa to Social Worker II. Additionally, Cheyenne Mowery, has been transferred to the Child Support Team. Page informed the Board that Kim Crawford has been promoted to Administrative Assistant I at Senior Services, following several years of training through the Ann Johnson Institute for Senior Center Management. Patrick explained to the Board that this is an important component of SCOPE – Senior Center Operations and Program Evaluation, the 5 year certification that designates Macon County Senior Services as a Center of Excellence. Patrick updated the Board of the turnover/exits for this quarter. Page discussed the challenges of recruiting for Medicaid Expansion and explained that many applicants have withdrawn their applications due to the low starting pay of the positions as well as the lack of Premium Pay financial incentives. Patrick informed the Board that Buncombe County is advertising Income Maintenance Caseworker positions with a starting rate of \$41,000.00 per year and a remote work option. Page discussed that the current starting salary for Income Maintenance Caseworker's in Macon County is \$31,684.12 per year with no remote work option.

Patrick informed the Board that Page McCurry has submitted her resignation as Personnel Technician III and has accepted an offer from The Town of Waynesville to be their Human Resources Director. Page explained that the offer has significant financial impacts that will assist her in affording graduate school tuition as she begins the MPA program at UNC Pembroke in August. Page informed the Board that her last day at DSS is August 11th and that she will work hard to assist Patrick in hiring a replacement.

SFY 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

Patrick opened the floor for discussion of the SFY 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule. The Board agreed not to alter the day and time. Next month's meeting time will be at the regular 9:00 a.m. start time. Motion to adjourn made by Dale West, second by Anne Hyder.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman Date

Executive Officer/Secretary Date