

Macon County Social Services Board

January 19, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending were Anne Hyder, Page McCurry/HR, Patrick Betancourt, and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes. Dale West had sent regrets as she was unable to attend.

Agenda was approved with one date revision on motion of Evelyn Southard and second by Anne Hyder.

Minutes

The November minutes that had been deferred were approved on motion of Anne Hyder and second by Evelyn Southard. December minutes were deferred until the February meeting since Dale was not present to approve and Evelyn had not attended the December meeting.

Financials

Budget Officer, Cathy Makinson, updated the Board on the Energy program. State automated payment system continues to be a challenge. We had one provider that was enrolled in the auto payment system and then the state changed the process. They were spending hours with little technical assistance from the state and requested to be de-activated as a direct deposit vendor. Initially the state had said they would not be able to change their status but eventually they agreed to cancel that enrollment. We delayed Auto-LIEAP payments waiting on information that let us know what vendors were direct deposit so that we did not duplicate payment with county initiated check. Indirect Cost Plan work with Maximus has begun for next fiscal year with information needed for budget. In order to identify the cost of space associated with the EE workers, Patrick and Cathy sent a floor plan that defined which space was definitely considered to be eligible and then open spaces that needed guidance from the state to see if they are allowable as well, such as hallways, bathroom, breakroom, etc. In preparation of budget submission, Cathy spoke with Lori for tentative deadlines. In the past few years, budgets were required to be submitted before DSS Board met and gave formal approval. Patrick will advise the Board if a meeting date needs to be re-scheduled once we know definite timeframe.

County Commissioner Liaison Assignment

Patrick was informed that the Liaison for both DSS and Senior Services is new commissioner, Danny Antoine. Cathy reached out to Danny about our department being willing to sit down one-on-one to explain budget and services in the near future and he agreed he would like to do that.

CRAVE/WAVE Grant Application

DSS has a grant opportunity through Dogwood Health Trust that would fund improvements to the courtroom space that would allow virtual courtrooms with screens, wireless access, microphones, through the state AOC. Macon has requested to be one of the recipients. The grant would provide savings in time and money. For example, the sheriff's department transportation of individuals to court, etc. Dogwood has made available up to \$25,000 and given all the information needed to complete the grant application. Patrick hopes to finalize the application next week as it is due by February 1, 2023.

Personnel Updates/Turnover Rate

Page provided an update to the board which include a new employee in Adult Medicaid, Cheyenne Mowery. Page also mentioned DSS has two WCU interns that are working with child welfare. Senior Services has been fully staffed since October and there is only one remaining vacancy at DSS in CPS social work. Turnover rate has not changed this month. Page shared the new social media campaign with the emphasis, "Work with Purpose".

Closed Session

No Closed Session this month.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting was rescheduled from Thursday, February 16, 2023, to Friday, February 24, 2023 as Patrick will be out of town. Motion to adjourn made by Anne Hyder, second by Evelyn Southard.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date