

Macon County Social Services Board

February 19, 2020

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Anne Hyder, Evelyn Southard, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes and HR Planner/Evaluator, Page McCurry.

Minutes

January minutes were approved on motion by Anne Hyder and second by Evelyn Southard.

Meeting began with discussion around open meeting protocol. Patrick is to draft a policy for Board's review and approval next month.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson informed the Board we finally received both meal contracts for Angel Medical Center and Highlands-Cashier Hospital from HCA and invoices have been processed. Cathy updated the Board on the Energy Program. LIEAP Funds have been exhausted but we still have a large amount of Federal Crisis funds available. Cathy reported with the current budget processing for FY 20-21 underway, she asked DSS attorney Moore to review his time and expenditures with the increase in foster care to see if there is a justifiable reason to increase the contract for next FY. Monthly budget reports were provided in the Board books for review.

Program Reports

Stacey Messer presented on Foster Parent Training, MAPP, Model Approach to which is a 10 week program of structured training for potential foster and adoptive parents. During each 3 hour class, DSS staff is given the opportunity to develop relationships with future foster parents so they can make an informed decision and also to see what parents have the skill set to care for the children coming into care. DSS is partnering with Biltmore Baptist in the current class, with 8 families attending. One of these families has already accepted placement of a child due to a kinship relationship even though they are not yet licensed. Currently, DSS has 29 licensed families but will be losing 4 this month due to adoption. With 29 families, we still only have 3-4 slots available for emergency placements. Once MAPP class is completed, families that wish to pursue licensing, go through an extensive, invasive process, while they answer personal information and a 28 page application is completed and sent to the state for approval. Occasionally, the state has additional items they need and licensing can be delayed. Other partners over the past few years include Discover Church, a clothing closet for children coming into care that is maintained by a privately licensed foster family and other support services for foster families.

Old Business

Last month, Page presented MOU performance measures. This week, Patrick received a Dear County Director Letter stating the counties are doing a good job but are not being held accountable this FY due to the unreliable data. Next review of data will be at the end of the current FY.

Patrick updated the Board on the EFSP grant. He has not requested transfer of the grant to another county department as two former grant phases need to close out so that it is an up to date grant phase. Patrick also briefed the Board on the county capital improvement plan as Moseley Architects' Final Report is now posted on the county website. The Human Services Building renovations are on Tier 3, however several recent major repairs including a new boiler system, thermostat replacement and repair and flush of water system has been completed. DSS still has leaks in the roof which maintenance is monitoring.

New Business

DSS has been asked to partner as an organization with the Census Bureau to help educate staff and clients on the importance of citizens being enumerated. Ten years ago, there was much attention given to incorrect citizen data in Macon County which can have an effect on Federal and State funding. Dr. Debbie Denise Reese is to present at the next quarterly staffing on February 28, to inform staff on the best way to refer clients to get counted as our clients tend to be some of the more challenging to capture

Closed Session

Lisa Leatherman made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel information as allowed under G.S. 143-318.11. Anne Hyder seconded, and motion carried.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date