

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Regular Meeting Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending were Dale West, Evelyn Southard, Anne Hyder, Page McCurry (Clerk to the Board), Patrick Betancourt (Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board), Cathy Makinson (Business Officer), and Amy Sanderfur (Administrative Officer). Mike Williams and Lisa Leatherman were guests in attendance.

Agenda was approved on motion of Dale West and second by Evelyn Southard.

### **Minutes**

May minutes were approved on motion of Anne Hyder, second by Evelyn Southard.

### **Finance Update/Contracts**

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, informed the Board that agency revenues and expenditures are on track for 2023/2023 projections. Cathy discussed the training of her successor post retirement, Amy Sanderfur. Patrick discussed a Foster Care rate increase that will begin July 1, 2023 due to Senate Bill 20. Patrick explained that additional funding might be needed to supplement the County portion of the Foster Care rate increase and that County Administration was informed that this supplement may need to come from County Contingency funds. Cathy explained that the rates for Foster Care are tiered, and the rate for infants to children age 5 will increase from \$514.00 to \$702.00 per month, children ages 6 to 12 will increase from \$654.00 to \$742.00 per month, and children ages 13 to 21 will increase from \$698.00 to \$810.00 per month. Additionally, per Section 6.6.(c) of Senate Bill 20, the State and a county participating in unlicensed kinship care shall each contribute fifty percent (50%) of the nonfederal share of the cost of care for a child placed by a county department of social services in a family foster home. Cathy explained that before this Bill was ratified, no county funding was legally required to support kinship placements. Patrick informed the Board that due to Macon County Department of Social Services participation in the TANF (Work First) Program for Innovation the agency receives dollars that can be diverted to child welfare programs and these funds can be used to support kinship placements. Cathy discussed the contracts for fiscal year 2023/2024. Cathy explained that for our purposes, a PO (Purchase Order) is a binding contract. Cathy also informed the Board that DSS will be utilizing a 5 page contract for Supervised Visitation Staff going forward.

Financials were provided in the book.

### **Budget/Medicaid Expansion**

Cathy updated the board on the Budget Presentation at the Commissioner Meeting on June 13, 2023. Cathy explained that due to Medicaid Expansion DSS had requested a trainer (in this current fiscal year) which will be reimbursed at a rate of 50%-75% as well as three additional Medicaid caseworkers that will be reimbursed at a rate of 100%. Cathy informed the Board of Medicaid Expansion funding that was received through EFT. Two fund transfers were noted, \$120,000.00 to cover the 25% shortfall of E&E enhanced funding for Medicaid eligibility determination for next SFY and \$45,000.00 to cover Medicaid Expansion costs. Cathy explained that these funds are available for draw down through SFY 2027 with specific codes designated for Medicaid Expansion. Cathy informed the Board that NC DHHS fronted the money for Medicaid Expansion through Senate Bill 76 because of an anticipated increase of 600,000 new Medicaid Beneficiaries. Patrick explained that if the Commissioners are unable to approve a budget, the

County might fall back on an interim budget. Patrick informed the Board that during the initial budget meetings DSS requested an additional Licensing Social Worker due to a bottleneck in the work to finalize adoptions, but this position was not included in the final budget presentation from the County Manager.

**Personnel Updates/Turnover Rate**

Page informed the Board of the internal promotions of Ellie Brittain SW IA/T for In Home and of Sergio Falconi to the Social Work Supervisor II. Additionally, Miriam Rios-Ortiz, has been hired for SW III w/a SW IA/T for the CPS Team. Page explained that Miriam was a BSW Intern from WCU for the Department this past spring, and completed the Child Welfare Education Collaborative. Page informed the Board that Gail Hyatt has been hired as PA III for the Clerical Team, and Valeria Calle-Tello was hired for IMC I w/a IMC II in Adult Medicaid. Lastly, Page explained that Taylor Henry was rehired to IMC III in Adult Medicaid. Page indicated that there are no recent resignations but Cathy Makinson’s last day is June 16<sup>th</sup> due to her retirement. Page updated the Board on recent changes at County HR that have improved the Personnel Action Forms (PAF) being processed more timely. She explained that the PAF can now be reviewed and signed electronically, which is expediting the process.

**Closed Session**

Held prior to meeting at the request of the Social Services Board. Dale West made a motion to go into Closed Session as allowed under N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (6) which reads:

*To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.*

Anne Hyder seconded, motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

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 Evelyn Southard.

APPROVED BY:

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Chairman Date

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Executive Officer/Secretary Date