

Macon County Social Services Board

November 18, 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, Evelyn Southard, Anne Hyder, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes.

Minutes

Minutes were approved on motion of Anne Hyder and second by Lisa Leatherman.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, presented the end of year report for FY 19-20. DSS had a county savings of \$489,113 which includes savings of \$130,151 in Foster Care and \$116,275 in Special Assistance. Due to Covid, several areas were underspent due to less activity. Additionally, 100% reimbursed Covid funds assisted teleworkers and supplies. Foster care savings were partly an over projection of State foster children expenses which were projected based on the caseload at that time and additional revenues through an FMAP increase and child support recoupments from parents whose children are or have been in foster care. Senior Services had a county savings of \$39,386 which is much less than prior years and this is due to the Center being closed due to Covid and reduced client contributions. Senior Services has received another grant for home delivered meals through the State Employees Credit Union.

Cathy also reported that DSS is being required to change the Trust Accounts to special revenue accounts independent of the General Fund, per our auditing agency. Cathy informed the Board that the Energy Assistance program began this week and the final Foster Care Covid stipend has been processed through the month of September. There is some talk of more available funds to continue assisting licensed families and facilities during the pandemic.

Legal Update

Patrick informed the Board that the lawsuit involving a former foster parent was dismissed in US District Court. The second lawsuit filed with the NC Industrial Commission is expected to have no movement and be dismissed as DSS does not meet the requirement of being a state entity as we are a state supervised, county agency.

Personnel Updates

Personnel updates included a report completed by Page McCurry which evaluated turnover in DSS for FY 19-20, report attached. Social Work had the highest turnover rate at 33% and a department total of nine resignations. We continue to have two vacancies in Social Work due to lack of qualified applicants. Patrick informed the Board that we will have one WCU intern in adult services in the spring. Recognition was given to Page who has done an excellent job in recruitment efforts.

DSS Board Update

Discussion was held regarding possible replacement for Lisa Leatherman's board position which will end on June 30, 2021. This position is chosen by the DSS Board.

Performance Measures Update

Patrick briefly showed the Board the web-based reporting system that will reflect all performance measures that are a part of the MOU with NC DHHS. The system is not available to the public yet and is still being developed.

Closed Session

No closed session needed.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, December 16th, 2020, at 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date