



Macon County Social Services Board

Friday, Aug. 15, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Welcome / Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the August 2025 regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members in attendance included Mike Williams, Cara Smith, Julie Adams, Patrick Betancourt (Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board), Beneth Aiken, and Lynne Kurimay.

Proposed Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board was presented with amendments to the agenda and approved on motion of Mike Williams, seconded by Cara Smith. Minutes of both the open meeting and closed session for July 2025 were approved on motion of Mike Williams, seconded by Julie Adams. Additionally, a Board request was made to hear specific information at its regularly held September meeting related to child welfare court processes.

Financials and Budget Update

Patrick and Lynne presented and reviewed the year-to-date budget report. Lynne discussed some of the purchase orders and reported that we have received a second allocation for energy assistance. A Board request was made to include Energy Assistance expenditures each month in order to understand how the annual allocations match up to the disbursements. Patrick shared reports regarding the number of children involved in child welfare in Macon County and the caseloads of the social workers.

Together We Can Board Resolution

With Julie Adams stepping out of the meeting, the remaining Board members discussed a resolution involving Together We Can. Patrick reported to the Board that the agency's attorney, Julie Adams and himself met to discuss potential conflicts of interest between Julie's role at Together We Can and her role with the Macon County Dept. of Social Services Board. Patrick answered questions and the Together We Can Resolution was adopted on motion by Cara Smith, seconded by Mike Williams. Julie Adams re-joined the Board meeting and provided an update on the Transition House and answered questions regarding the process of the Dept.'s child welfare staff utilizing the facility.

HR-1 SNAP/FNS Impact Discussion

Patrick discussed the impact of the federal SNAP changes in North Carolina. He reports that the potential SNAP outcomes from these changes could be extremely detrimental to Macon County and NC as a whole. The Board was provided information that on the percentage of benefit costs that states will be required to pay based on each state's SNAP Payment Error Rate. Currently, if NC's overall error rate is shifted down 2/10ths of a percentage point, then the state portion of SNAP benefits paid to recipients would be reduced from 15% (max) to 10%. Historically, there has always been full bi-partisan Congressional support for the federal government paying 100% of benefit costs – states have only paid a portion of administrative costs. HR-1 has changed that formula as well. North Carolina estimates that, in addition to paying a portion of the benefits amount the state will have to pay an increase in the administrative costs of approximately \$16M while counties will likely see an increase of \$67M. Julie Adams reported that NC Association of County Boards of Social Services is forming an advocacy group to let the NC General Assembly know how this will be adversely affecting the communities. The Board discussed solutions in which Macon County could improve error rates and timeliness in the SNAP program.

Personnel Update/Agency Exits Data

Beneth shared personnel updates. There was one departure from the agency in the clerical unit and one departure in the Food and Nutrition unit. There were two new hires in the Medicaid unit. There were four promotions in the Medicaid unit, two promotions in the Child Support unit, and one promotion in the Social Work unit.

Amendment to the Agenda

Julie Adams discussed items regarding the September board meeting.
Motion to enter closed session was made by Cara Smith, seconded by Julie Adams.

Closed Session / Adjournment

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11 (a)(6) the motion to move the meeting into closed session was made by Cara Smith, seconded by Julie Adams. At the conclusion of the closed session Mike Williams motioned to come out of closed session, seconded by Cara Smith. No further action was taken by the Board and a motion to adjourn was made by Cara Smith and seconded by Mike Williams.

These minutes were voted on and approved by the Macon County Social Services Board at its regularly held meeting on:
Sept. 19, 2025, 2025.


Executive Officer/Secretary Date Sept. 19, 2025

 - 9.19.25
Chairman Date