



Macon County Social Services Board

Friday, Jul. 18, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the 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.

New Board Member Oath of Office

Lynne Kurimay administered the Oath of Office to new Board member, Julie Adams.

Regular Meeting Schedule for SFY 2025-20256/Election of Board Chair

Mike Williams was nominated and approved as Board Chair on motion of Cara Smith, seconded by Julie Adams. The Board agreed to maintain the current regular meeting schedule of meeting monthly on the third Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Proposed Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board was presented with the agenda, which was and approved on motion of Cara Smith, seconded by Mike Williams. The June 2025 meeting minutes for were approved on motion of Mike Williams, seconded by Cara Smith.

Financials and Budget Update

Patrick and Lynne presented the approved budget from the Board of County Commissioners' meeting held on June 10, 2025. They answered questions surrounding agency requests and the process moving forward. Patrick discussed the local uncertainty as a result of the lack of passage of a State budget – specifically, the uncertainty created or the Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) program administered local through M.P.P. The Board discussed the efficacy of this program and the impact of losing such a program in this region will have. Additional discussion included the minimal impact that the lack of a State budget has at this point as it is not uncommon to start a fiscal year without an approved budget.

Energy Programs Discussion and Outreach Plan Approval

Chrissy Tompson presented on the Energy programs and the annual outreach plan to the Board. She shared how this year is different than previous years with the application now being online and live. Due to the application already being live, there is potential that the county may exhaust funds for those in crisis during the hardest winter months. She also shared how this year the state has added additional criteria which could keep some people from being eligible for assistance. Patrick shared that we have a good working relationship with several non-profit organizations and local churches to help meet the need. Chrissy answered questions and the Board voted to approve the plan on motion of Mike Williams, seconded by Julie Adams.

HR-1 Impact Discussion

Patrick discussed with the Board the impact of the passage of Federal Legislation HR-1 (also referred to as the One Big Beautiful Bill signed by the President on July 4, 2025) on the Medicaid unit. As of December 31, 2026 NC DHHS will be required to establish work/community engagement requirements for certain individuals as a condition of Medicaid eligibility. Monitoring those requirements will add more tasks to the front-line workers. He explained that the workers will also have to conduct eligibility redeterminations for adult expansion enrollees once every six months instead of every 12 months. Patrick also shared the public website where the Medicaid and Food & Nutrition data for each NC county can be found.

Personnel Update/Agency Exits Data

Beneth shared personnel updates. There were four departures from the agency over the past month: one in the Medicaid unit, one in the Food and Nutrition unit, one at Senior Services, and one from the Clerical unit.

Joint Meeting with County Commissioners and Health Board

Patrick discussed the recent developments regarding the Macon County Commissioners and the Macon County Public Health Board. He explained the guidelines regarding open and closed session and the process for complaints.


Closed Session

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

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

Aug. 15, 2025, 2025.

 Aug. 15, 2025
Executive Officer/Secretary Date

 8-15-25
Chairman Date