

Macon County Social Services Board

January 20, 2021

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending via ZOOM were: Evelyn Southard, Anne Hyder, and Lisa Leatherman. Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, Page McCurry, HR Planner/Evaluator and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes attended in person, connecting with Board members through the ZOOM virtual platform.

Minutes

Minutes were approved on motion of Anne Hyder and second by Evelyn Southard.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, updated the Board on the Energy Programs with approximately \$68,000 of \$145,000 spent in regular LIEAP funds, \$62,000 of \$144,000 spent in Crisis funds and \$1,100 of \$2,172 spent in Helping Each Member Cope funds. As a reminder, DSS had already processed the Pandemic LIEAP payments of over \$89,000. DSS continues to contract with a former employee to assist in energy applications. Beginning January 4th, clients could complete both Crisis and LIEAP applications on-line through e-pass. The process of completing the applications continues to go relatively smoothly even though our lobby is still closed. Cathy reported the deadline for the Covid Care Funds for APS and CPS funds has been extended to the end of June. Prior to this extension, DSS was required to revert unspent funds as of December 31st. Financials were provided in the Board books.

Patrick reminded the Board of his request to county admin of establishing a new social work supervisor position. After follow-up with County Manager, Patrick was told to bring the request to County Commissioners in the mid-year budget review in January. That request has been deferred to February when Commissioners begin their budget work session for FY 21-22. Patrick hopes to update the DSS Board at their February meeting. Patrick provided a list of upcoming monitorings and explained each program to be monitored.

COVID Update

Since the December Board meeting when we only had two positive staff cases, the cases have increased to a total of 8 at DSS and 6 at Senior Services. 14% increase in positive DSS cases since November and 38% increase in positive Senior Services cases. Patrick told the Board that he feels we have mitigated the understaffing very well and have action plans for coverage needs. DSS has sent staff to assist with meals at Senior Services and at DSS, Intake staff are prepared to back up the clerical staff up front as they are short two. There are currently ten staff teleworking from DSS and two from Senior Services. Page informed the Board she tries to have daily contact with staff that test positive and are being quarantined at home and that some staff have great support systems while others do not. Page explained the process when there is a positive case in order to give as much information without identifying the individual. She sends an email to staff informing them that a staff member has tested positive and reminding again of safety practices. Page encourages the employee to talk to their team members if they feel comfortable doing that. Page also makes sure the employee space is sprayed with an anti-viral atomizer gun to sanitize and requests maintenance to do a deeper clean and spray over the weekend.

Patrick stated in regards to interdepartmental work, the effort has gone well at Senior Services. Since the last Commissioners' meeting, our department has received several requests to help. Patrick reached out to supervisors and said we could make this happen. Patrick worked with supervisors to make sure we were covered at DSS and then there was a possible option that these staff could receive the calls at their cubicle phone, but we were then informed that the county did not have that technology. With the increase in testing and vaccines on-site, it is going to impact clients trying to drop off info with expected lines of vehicles blocking parking areas and we are not sure how much traffic we can handle at this location. One proposal after the Commissioners' meeting was to

utilize Senior Services to assist as another testing site, immediately following meal disbursement as it is already set up as a drive-thru. There has not been any movement on this proposal or the use of the community building or old Walmart parking lot, both with more space for flow of traffic.

Personnel Updates

Personnel updates include Elsa McCowan, who was hired for the Social Work I Intake position. We still have a vacancy in the foster care social work position. Patrick recognized Page’s completion of OSHR Qualifications Training which will allow her to evaluate applicants.

Closed Session

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

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, February 17th, 2021, at 8:30am in the Administrative Conference Room at the Human Services Building.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date