

Macon County Social Services Board

November 12, 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: Dale West and Anne Hyder. Meeting in person were Evelyn Southard, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, Page McCurry, HR Planner/Evaluator and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes, connecting with Board members through the Zoom virtual platform.

Minutes

Minutes were approved on motion of Dale West and second by Evelyn Southard.

Financials/Energy Assistance

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, reported that DSS had begun the Crisis Energy Program on Monday of this week. Through 3 days, approximately \$12,300 had been obligated. Currently DSS has \$67K in a funding allocation and still waiting on the remaining funds to be processed pending a state approved budget. Energy costs have already increased from last year with anticipation of higher costs as winter begins. Financials were provided in the Board books.

TANF (Work First) Electing County Plan

Patrick informed the Board he had presented the final Plan to the County Commissioners on Tuesday, 11/10/21, and received a unanimous vote of approval. DSS will submit the Plan to DHHS as soon as the signature page is received from County HR. The deadline to submit plans to the State is January 22, 2022. Patrick explained it is beneficial to send the plans in early to DHHS for their review, allowing them to send the plan back to the county with suggested revisions and feedback prior to the deadline. The Plan has not changed dramatically since the '19-'22 plan. The Plan contains some statistic updates and a slight change to applicants who have felony substance abuse charges so that it mirrors FNS policy and would disqualify the applicant from receiving Work First.

Personnel Updates/Turnover Rate

Page reported that the turnover rate is holding with no new official resignations. Page had received a resignation on a part-time worker at Senior Services but after two days, the employee wanted to rescind her resignation and stay at Senior Services. Page will be onboarding a new Social Worker on 11/22/21 in Adult Services, Jacob Doster, who is originally from Franklin. Page stated that most of the staff were happy with the pay study increases.

Other

Anne Hyder asked Patrick if he was aware of the increase in homelessness in Macon County. Patrick stated he didn't know current numbers and that the Macon New Beginnings homeless count usually takes place in January and they share the results with DSS. This count is voluntary and doesn't necessarily capture all. Patrick did mention a couple changes in locations where homeless tend to congregate. It was also mentioned that there are a few living in their cars and have been observed near the greenway.

Board was reminded of the DSS Thanksgiving Luncheon, next week on November 18th at noon.

Closed Session

Evelyn Southard 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 Thursday, December 16, 2021, in the Admin Conference Room. It was agreed to delay the beginning of the meeting to 10:30am, with the Christmas luncheon to follow immediately following. Motion to adjourn made by Anne Hyder, second by Evelyn Southard.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date