

Macon County Social Services Board

December 16, 2021

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending were Dale West, Anne Hyder, Evelyn Southard, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, Page McCurry, HR Planner/Evaluator and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes. Agenda was approved without changes on motion of Dale West and second by Anne Hyder. Patrick acknowledged Dale's completion of UNC-CH Social Services Board Training.

Minutes

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

Vaya Health Board

Patrick discussed his almost 3-year term on this critical board, as it assists with children we are already serving. Through a recent merger with Cardinal MCO, Vaya assumed control of 8 counties who chose to switch to the Vaya organization, while 12 counties chose to be assigned to other LME-MCOs following Cardinal's dissolution. This merger increased VAYA from 23 counties to 31 counties in the catchment area and changes the board structure to allow the counties farther east to have representation on the governing board. Patrick stated he will remain on the regionally appointed board. Each region appoints two members to the larger governing board.

Financials/

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson, reported to the Board that DHHS had notified counties that the standard room and board rates for cost of care of foster children will be increasing on January 1, 2022. Additionally, bridge funding for congregational care has been approved through a legislative act in October and included in the state's budget. Financials were provided in the board books.

TANF (Work First) Electing County Plan

Patrick informed the Board that DHHS has reviewed Macon's Plan and gave minimal feedback to include a statement in regards to domestic violence prevention. The statement was added to the Plan which was then re-submitted to DHHS

Personnel Updates/Turnover Rate

Page provided an updated Agency Turnover Rate graph which includes two SW resignations. Haley Ledford is moving to North Dakota and Chelsea Rangel has taken a job at Haywood County DSS. New employees include Kim Kimbrough in Adult Medicaid and Tiana Serio in CPS. Alexis Witt, a December WCU grad, will begin in January.

Energy Assistance

The LIEAP energy program began on December 1, 2021, but the auto-generated LIEAP program initiated at the state office has been delayed until the end of December. DSS has processed \$8,800 of \$168,510 in LIEAP benefits. In Crisis, DSS has obligated \$46,010 of \$125,521. There are no Haywood Electric funds allocated at this time. One thing to note is that due to increased costs in heating, the program funds are not going as far as they have in the past several years.

Other

Patrick informed the Board of the upcoming county service awards with 4 DSS employees being recognized, including two 30-year employees in Lisa Hilliard and Lisa Henry.

Closed Session

No closed session.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 20, 2022, in the Admin Conference Room. Motion to adjourn made by Anne Hyder, second by Evelyn Southard.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date