

January 21, 2009
Franklin, NC 28734

Social Services Board met this date in regular session. Members in attendance were Dom D'Ascoli, Wendy Dalton, Mark West and Director /Secretary. Meeting was called to order by Chairman D'Ascoli.

Minutes of the December 17, 2008 board meeting were approved on motion of Mark West and second by Wendy Dalton.

Year to date financials were reviewed. Due to county budget shortfall, county management has requested Departments to determine potential funding cuts to offset the deficit. \$100,000 has been identified in the DSS Medicaid expenditure line item, with other reductions being determined.

Macon Citizens Helpline, established by the County Commissioners in December, has been very successful with 183 calls in less than a one month period. 27% of the calls were for heating assistance, 23% were for rent/mortgage assistance and 13% were for food assistance. Remaining calls varied. County Commissioners have been pleased with community response to the establishment of the resource and referral line.

Food and Nutrition cases continue to grow at steady rate. Employment layoffs have occurred especially after the holidays. 143 new food and nutrition applications have been taken since January 2. Family and Children Medicaid applications are the second greatest area of growth, followed by Adult Medicaid applications. It is anticipated applications for food and medical assistance will continue to increase due to economic forecast.

Macon County Mental Health Taskforce will submit the recommendations with funding requests to the Board of County Commissioners at the second meeting in January. Requests are being made to enhance and improve the mental health delivery system in Macon County. One of the requests being recommended is continued funding of the Macon Citizen Helpline.

Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) has received funding of \$196,000 this fiscal year, a \$100,000 increase over last fiscal year. A balance of \$23,000 remains of the CIP heating assistance which will probably be depleted by the end of January.

Director shared a revised and updated DSS Mandated Services Chart. This chart is updated by the state division of Social Services each year.

The checks of Low Income Energy Assistance program, a one time check to low income eligible households, are being mailed the first of February. 1168 Macon County recipient households of this heating assistance program will receive total benefits of approximately \$250,000. Last year Macon County households only received \$84,367. The checks, ranging from \$129.00 to \$321.00, will aid households at a time when the Crisis Program funding will be depleted.

Board went into Closed Session to discuss personnel and contracts on motion of Mark West and second by Wendy Dalton. Board returned from

Closed Session.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18 at 9:00 in the
DSS Administrative Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman/Date

Secretary/Date