

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

July 15, 2015

Minutes

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First order of business was to elect a Chairman for the upcoming fiscal year. Lisa Leatherman moved that Dinah remain as Chair again this year, Jim Garner seconded. Motion approved.

### **Call to Order**

Dinah Mashburn called meeting to order. Members in attendance were Dinah Mashburn, Chair; Jim Garner, and Lisa Leatherman, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, and Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes.

### **Minutes**

Open Session and Closed Session Minutes of the June 17, 2015 Board Meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved with date correction on motion of Jim Garner and second by Dinah Mashburn.

### **Financials**

Monthly financials for May were provided to the Board.

Patrick reported that TANF Cash Savings, once received, would be utilized in Child Welfare along with some needed building improvements this year. He then proposed to the Board to contract a retired Social Worker to provide assistance to Foster Care Social Workers when needed such as sitting with foster child at hospital in emergency situations, transporting child to court or to facility when needed, etc. Board supported this proposal.

Patrick also suggested that DSS pay the non-reimbursable county portion of the foster care room and board rate to families that are in the process of being licensed and have been approved by the court for placement of a child prior to finalizing licensure. This would be at the discretion of the Department. DSS has very few of these situations within the year but this would assist these families with the cost of care until they begin receiving the Board Rate once completely licensed. Board supported the idea and Patrick stated he would bring the formal policy for their approval next month. Board was informed that we utilize a company named DocVault to expedite the licensing process as the licensing packet is uploaded to this company and if all paperwork is complete, protects that date for retro reimbursement once finalized. Patrick stated that this State Division in Black Mountain is responsible for all 100 counties and private licensed child placing agencies and it takes longer to complete licensing but hopefully these placements would be fully licensed within 3 months of placement or the Board would be advised to the exceptions. Patrick stated he would provide a formal policy to this effect next month for Board approval.

### **Program Reports**

Patrick stated that Gwen Taylor is working on the schedule of program reports for the new fiscal year. Fiscal Year 14-15 reports will hopefully be processed in August and reported on in August or September.

### **Old Business**

Patrick updated Board on generator. We were unable to secure a generator to be on-site by 6/30/15 so that purchase will be completed this year. He mentioned Maintenance was able to locate a natural gas generator for much less than anticipated with the total cost approximately \$32,000. Patrick will have discussion with the Health Department as to their financial contribution to the project.

Patrick updated the Board on the Supervised Visitation Program. Our contract with Southwestern Child Development ended 6/30/15. We were able to successfully negotiate with Vanguard to contract local staff to continue providing supervision of foster child and parents, primarily on-site at MPP. MPP staff who are contracted are teachers and have a degree or certification in early childhood development or education. DSS held training last evening for those who have been contracted and reviewed job expectation, processes and policy. Additionally the cost of this contract will be less than half of what we had been paying with more control of those who are contracted and utilized. Policy for Board approval will be emailed prior to next month's meeting for review.

Patrick reported the NC FAST Child Welfare Business Plan was discussed at last week's Directors' Meeting and Directors were asked to provide feedback. There is still concern of the same product being utilized for Economic Services not being the best for Child Welfare. There is still the need for an integrated case management system but it appears it will be in the distant future.

FNS timeliness is still a focus at the state with USDA representatives having just left Raleigh. Outcomes of that review should be forthcoming. There is a push to have same day processing which would take restructuring how we are currently organized. State is to provide sessions regarding this at the Social Services Institute in October which Patrick has asked Sheila Conley to attend.

### **New Business**

State budget is still under continuing resolution but not a concern locally at this time.

83 of 100 counties have met State deadline of Medicaid backlog to be resolved by 6/30/15, Macon being one of them.

Patrick reported on the NC Pediatric Association's initiative named Fostering Health in NC which targets the increased health needs of foster children. Health costs for foster children are three times that of children not in custody. Initiative is to encourage partnerships with DSS, Health Departments and local physicians and include additional services for these children such as electronic health records and special coordination of psychotropic drugs.

Patrick provided documents for review to the Board from School of Government including rules of procedures for DSS Boards, questions for Boards and their responsibilities. He also stated he asked Gwen to compile a manual of all Macon DSS supplemental policies and procedures. That manual will be provided for review to the Board once completed.

**Closed Session**

Jim Garner made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and confidential case information. Lisa Leatherman seconded, and motion carried. Board returned from Closed Session.

**Next Meeting**

Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

Dinal Mashlwa 9-17-15 [Signature] 08-19-2015  
Chairman/Date Secretary/Date