

Macon County Social Services Board

February 21, 2018

Minutes

Call to Order

Patrick Betancourt called meeting to order. Members in attendance were: Lisa Leatherman, Darlene Green, Evelyn Southard, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board and Cathy Makinson Business Officer designated to record minutes.

Minutes

Darlene Green made motion to approve January minutes, second by Evelyn Southard, minutes approved.

Financials

Business Officer, Cathy Makinson reported the state fiscal monitoring had been completed with only one small adjustment included in the present month's 1571 upload. The Board was informed that Macon County will be one of 10 counties to go live with the new web-based financial reporting next month. Testing was done this month and data was compared to the legacy system that the state has been using for years. Financials were provided in Board books.

Program Reports

Lisa Hilliard presented Performance Measures of Adult and Children's Services. In Adult Services, we are currently on track with last year's numbers. The additional Social Worker hired this year to assist with adult programs has brought a great relief to our one long time adult services social worker. Lisa reported the Community Paramedic program has been a great resource to the community in this area as well. Guardianship cases remain low and we continue to use a contract with The Arc of NC for the case management portion. Currently, staff are undergoing the 3 year review from Social Security Administration.

In Children's Services, Lisa reported there were 49 children in custody as of 6/30/17 and as of today we have 66. Even with the additional Social Worker added last year, caseloads continue to be over the state recommended 15 cases/worker. With workers averaging 23 children on their caseload, there is enough demand to support a 4th worker. Each child has to be seen face-to-face each month and with working foster parents, many of those visits have to take place after hours along with a meeting at the school for the school-age children. Cases continue to be more complex with substance abuse issues, mutually combative domestic violence, mental health issues, etc. Patrick displayed a Power Point to the Board with data reflecting the end-of-month number of children in custody over time and discussed foster care numbers reaching this extent in 2007 at the height of the methamphetamine epidemic and the start of the Great Recession. The median age of foster children is decreasing. Discussion was also held on local impacts and issues in this area.

Adoptions continue to be finalized with 3 at this time in FY 17-18, 7 last year and there are 12 children out of 66 that have the permanency plan of adoption. 9 of those 12 are currently in adoptive placements. There is a potential for 8 of those to become finalized before fiscal year's end. We continue to use Adoptive Promotion Funds that have been received to fund and enhance the adoption processes.

Old Business

Patrick reviewed the revised organization chart provided to Board members in their books.

New Business

Board approved supporting the Employee Appreciation Day scheduled for April 18th 2018.

Closed Session

Lisa Leatherman made motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel and confidential case information. Darlene Green seconded, and motion carried.

Next Meeting

Due to Budget presentation and approval deadlines, the next Board meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in the DSS Administrative Conference Room.

APPROVED BY:

Chairman | Date

Secretary | Date