

## **Macon County Social Services Board**

August 18, 2022

Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Patrick Betancourt called the regular meeting of the Macon County Social Services Board to order. Members attending were Anne Hyder, Dale West, Evelyn Southard, Page McCurry/HR, Patrick Betancourt, Secretary to the Board, and Cathy Makinson, Business Officer designated to record minutes.

Agenda was approved on motion of Dale West and second by Evelyn Southard with one revision, striking the closed session as there were no items for closed session today.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Financials & 75/25 Medicaid Claiming**

Budget Officer, Cathy Makinson, stated the monthly financials provided in the book were for June as prior year expenses paid in July are still being posted to June. Cathy then discussed the recent process for using June's financial data in a testing environment for the change to 75/25 Medicaid reimbursements. First step in the process was identifying employees that still qualified to be claimed under the EE (Eligibility and Enrollment) process for the 75% reimbursement, then reviewing monthly departmental expenses that were generally allocated across all program areas. Information given by the state has not been specific to determine what is truly eligible and local agencies are told it is their decision. If in doubt, it was decided not to claim at the higher rate. Department expenses that all employees utilized such as office supplies, are eligible; however, vehicle expense and repairs are not as Medicaid staff do not regularly use agency vehicles. Once the test data is entered, there is a manual reclassification that has to be done by each agency and then the information is to be uploaded to the state for review. Upon uploading and speaking with our program rep, Cathy was informed she would have to resubmit the data during the mandatory week next week as this week was considered optional. Once the process was complete, Cathy explained the draft identified approximately \$11,240 decrease in Medicaid revenues, which multiplied by 12 months, the total would be approximately \$135,000. In order to claim these 75% expenditures, each of the EE eligible job descriptions must be revised to include the justification of activities being performed in Medicaid in NC FAST. DSS will continue to attend virtual meetings as allowed for any further guidance that may assist in understanding what is and is not eligible.

### **IV-E Adoption Assistance Appeal**

Patrick updated the Board that the initial appeal letter explained at last month's meeting upheld the decision that the case was not IV-E eligible. Patrick proceeded to appeal to the supervisory level at the state level and that too upheld the finding. Most recently, Patrick went straight to the Deputy Secretary in charge of operations who is a former DSS Director. He explained to the Deputy Secretary that we believe that all federal requirements had been met and the errors identified had to do with state policy. He also included that Macon DSS would be willing to enter into a program improvement plan to meet state requested corrections without a financial withholding. She and the team will evaluate and are to respond this week. If the same decision is upheld, Patrick will bring this appeal to the Board next month for the next steps to be determined.

### **Personnel Updates/Turnover Rate**

Page provided an update to the Board on the recent promotions of Sam Sterrett to SW II and Kayla Owenby to Adult Medicaid IMC Special Assistance/CAP. This month's resignations include Chelle Wright in Front Reception who decided she only wanted to work part-time, Tiana Serio, SW I/AT, went to work on the Cherokee reservations which is closer to her home and lastly, Jessica Stamey, FNS IMC

worker, is going to work for Southwestern Child Development Commission where she will be working from home and receiving a better salary. Turnover is already at 7% in the first month and a half of this new fiscal year. Page mentioned to the Board that she has been busy interviewing for several of the available positions and hopes to be able to offer a few of the jobs soon. Patrick shared with the Board that Page had received an award at the SSI Conference this month for Best Practice in recruiting practice in a small county. At Patrick's encouragement, Page submitted some of the social media efforts that she has developed to reach possible applicants that are not limited to Macon County. The Board commended Page on her award and her work on behalf of the agency.

**Closed Session**

No Closed Session this month.

**Next Meeting**

Next Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 15, 2022, in the Admin Conference Room. Motion to adjourn made by Dale West second by Anne Hyder.

APPROVED BY:

---

Chairman/Date

---

Secretary/Date