

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

March 5, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Carol Beals at 9:00 am. Roll call was taken with Hood, Loy, Beinborn, Stead, Nelson and Splinter. Also present were Fred Naatz, Director, Jessie Gavinski, Office Systems Assistant and Larry Wolf, Grant County Board of Supervisors Chairman. The meeting was in compliance with the open meeting law. Naatz asked to change the order of agenda to move LIHEAP/WHEAP Program presentation to the top due to Cece Fishnick's workload for the day. Stead moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Nelson. The motion carried. Splinter moved to approve the Summary of the Vouchers for February 2014; seconded by Nelson. The motion carried. Loy asked when Fuel will show up on the vouchers and Naatz stated that it does not ever show up on the vouchers.

CORRESPONDENCE

Naatz received a letter from the State that they had completed an Audit on Child Care reviews. Grant County was 1 of 15 counties with 0% error. The goal is to be under 20% error. Beals stated that the good usually goes unheard of and recommended Naatz doing a press release. There is just a little under 300 Child Care cases open in Grant County.

ADMINISTRATION

LIHEAP/WHEAP Program Presentation – Cece Fishnick spoke of the program and the amount of crisis help that is being handled at the time due to the cost of LP and the colder than normal weather. Everyone that applies and has been excepted will get a crisis benefit, if asked. If they ask for additional help after the first crisis payment, we will ask that they pay an amount and we'll match that. There was an individual that had wood as her primary heat in the past but wanted her benefit to go to LP. Explained that we're not able to do that but worked with her to pay more on her electric bill to free up money for her to use for LP. She will be using LP as her primary heat next year. At this point the fuel applications are down a little from last year but by the time the season ends we expect to be around where we were last year.

Accommodation to Recognition of the Economic Support Team – Fred stated that the name really needed to be changed to recognition of instead of Accommodation to. Naatz will be doing a press release regarding the Child Care reviews.

CCS Program – Update – Naatz shared some info, something on creating cash flow programs.

SED Contract – Platteville Family Resource Center – Naatz stated that Tori has really taken the lead on this. They were supposed to have a phone conference last Friday but Wruble must have overbooked as he was also at the Trauma Informed Care Meeting. We are trying to figure out what is a fair base amount.

Fuel Program Donation – Naatz informed the Board that we received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$5000 to be used to help out as many LP Grant County residents that were over the regular income guidelines for fuel assistance. A report was compiled of all the applicants that fit this category and names were picked from a hat to make it fair. 10 people received a benefit of \$500 directly to their LP vendor.

Program: Child Support for out of home placements – Joyce Roling asked Fred to do a presentation regarding this. Fred will be presenting this to the Executive Committee.

Directors Report – Jack Johnson from the Grant County Sheriff's Department joined and expressed to the Board, as he had previously done with Fred, that he was looking to start a committee to look into options for the jail, DSS and ADRC etc. This committee would look at what is wrong or no longer works at the buildings and look at ideas to build and/or restructure when the courthouse is paid off in 2016. Jack stated that we need a plan in place so we know where to go when the time is here and to start by exploring all options. Jack stated that he knows they won't have the final decision but to toss up other suggestions. Jack asked if it would make sense and benefit to have DSS, ADRC & the Jail housed together? What needs to be looked at is the cost of everything that is put into the buildings and as well as to heat and cool. Each room as their own window air conditioner and the boilers are very old. Larry stated there is already a committee for this and it's the Administrative Committee which handles the long-term plans for the city. Larry felt it may be a waste of time to form another committee and discuss when ultimately the decision is that of the Administrative Committee and most of the options have been explored. Hood also mentioned have one or two people that are involved in everyday business be on this committee to get what is really going on at the agencies. Larry discussed that Fred, Gayle (at the time) and Keith (at the time) were all involved in those meetings. Jack stated that four County Board members were interested in being on this committee as well. Beals asked if any of those four are on the Administrative Committee and Jack wasn't sure.

What will the cost be to continue with the existing buildings versus building one new building and combining? Jack stated that the main focus was on if it was feasible to build or not and what it would cost to "band-aid" the agencies needs to be looked at. (boilers, air system, new doors, water system, etc.).

Everything is on hold until after the April election as there may be new board members at that time.

Beals made the suggestion to look at UWP. They have a program where students come up with plans and figure out the costs, etc. Larry states that this has already been done in the past. He stated there weren't enough students in the past to complete. Beals mentioned to try that route again. Jack also mentioned contacting the UWP Engineering Department. Someone asked if there was a cost involved with this and Beals stated that there is not but the students get credit for their time worked.

Wolf is concerned as they've been working with the jail for over 15 years to come up with a plan and have had several studies and everything gets voted down. He stated that there has been a lot of money and time spent in these studies and meetings, but haven't gotten anywhere. Wolf stated that there is \$780,000 per year put aside for new buildings, etc. but it would cost more than this in interest to build a new building. Would we get a referendum to go through for this? Hood motioned to table forming a committee to brainstorm about building options until after elections and new committees are formed. Beinborn seconded the motion.

Naatz informed the board that the Appeal process for the County to substantiate a report has been heard by him but the State will be taking this over in 2015.

Naatz was happy to inform the board that the Federal Law Suit that has involved the County and Sheriff's Department has been denied by the Supreme Court. There are no other legal options so this law suit is complete.

Beals asked Naatz what the Orchard Manor committee update is and Naatz stated they were looking into the cost to run a new line of faucet water to have some clear water. In particular, breastfeeding moms have had their appliance discolored due to the water in the agency.

PERSONNEL

NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:20 Stead motioned to have the meeting adjourned to April 2nd, 2014 at 9:00 am at the ADRC Board room. Beinborn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

