

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

March 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order by John Beinborn at 9:00 A.M.. Roll call was taken with Dale Hood, Dwight Nelson, Don Splinter, Greg Fry and John Beinborn present. Also present were Fred Naatz, Director, Michele Timlin, Office and Financial Coordinator and Bob Keeney, County Board Chair. The meeting was in compliance with the open meeting law. There was a change to the order of the agenda moving V. Correspondence to III. Personnel. Dwight Nelson moved to approve the order of agenda, seconded by Greg Fry. The motion carried. Greg Fry moved to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2019 meeting, seconded by Don Splinter. The motion carried. Dwight Nelson moved to approve the Financial Reports, seconded by Greg Fry. The motion carried. Greg Fry moved to approve the Director's Report, seconded by Dale Hood.

MINUTES

There was a correction to the January 2, 2019 minutes. Under building update, SWOP was changed to SOC.

CORRESPONDENCE

DSS received a letter from DCF systems for the critical change process review from August. DCF determined that there was not a reason to take the next step so the March 6, 2019 review has been cancelled.

Clarke Thelemann read a letter received from DCF recognizing Grant County DSS for their successful efforts at completing and documenting caseworker contacts for children in out-of-home care. As one of the highest performing counties statewide, Grant County demonstrated the exceptional performance of 99.12% for 2018. DCF thanked Grant County DSS for their ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of some of the most vulnerable children in our state. Clark went on to explain that the children we deal with are at a higher risk of running away from their out-of-home care and that we are still required to have contact with these children even if they run away which can complicate the issue. Dale Hood asked how it is determined where a child is placed for foster care. Clark explained that a lot of factors go into placing a child in foster care. The needs of a child are given a numerical rank and from there the type of foster care is determined. When possible they try to place a child with family.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Greg Fry inquired about Jaymaa5 on the voucher report. Fred explained that this was an independent living placement for a child in foster care. Don Splinter questioned the Liberty Mutual payments and Fred reported they were for Worker's Compensation. Dwight Nelson asked about payments to River Ridge School District. Fred said this is part of the safe and active families where the school provides training to support kids in their area.

Internally, Grant County requires their social work staff to have 30 hours of training in a two year period. This coincides with the State of Wisconsin requirements.

The Actual versus Budget report is something new from Nancy Scott. DSS is under budget by \$152,000 for 2018 and we are still waiting for a few payments to post for last year.

PERSONNEL

DSS is fully staffed.

ADMINISTRATION

LEAN Update – Organizational Effectiveness Plan

Fred Naatz reported that DSS is not taking on anything new for 2019 but will look at gaps to plan for the next year.

Building Update

Fred Naatz stated that we are looking to move by the middle of May, 2019 with ADRC moving first. An open house is also being planned for the middle of May, 2019. We are really dependent on IT's timetable for the exact move date. Our furniture is all set up with the computer monitor arms not being installed yet. The front reception area will be getting the built in's from the original plan and the furniture purchased for that area will go to the intern office.

Director's Report

DCF is requiring five days of training for Supervisors and Social Workers on family find which entails placing children with relative for out-of-home care. Currently it is required that social workers ask for three names of relatives but sometimes the family refuses to give that information. This would be a change with family find. The findings were that with some of the hardest cases they did not stop looking for relatives until they found 40 family members. With this there was a 98% success rate. The thought is that if you work hard enough you can find family members for these out-of-home care cases.

Federal law was passed in 2017 which focuses more on prevention. As a state you could choose to implement in 2018 or waive for two years. Grant County chose to waive for two years. These changes will impact how we place children. One change in placement will be for group homes. Currently a child can be in a group home for six months but with the new federal law they will only be able to be in a group home for a maximum of 10 days. Fred feels that these goals may not be realistic and we won't be able to assist those exceptions.

Fred has been attending the criminal justice council meetings. The hope was to create a drug treatment court in Grant County but in the end it will most likely be court with a family component. There are some people who might be falling through the cracks because they are not competent to understand the court system and they are not treatable.

Fred Naatz was asked to join a Leadership team in Fennimore regarding autism. The goal is to improve services in Southwest Wisconsin.

Fred Naatz presented the new Mission Statement and Agency Vision. Greg Fry and John Beinborn commented on the simplicity of the statement and how it was straight to the point. Both were adopted by the social services board.

Fred Naatz presented the Governor's budget for the board members to read.

DSS needs to purchase a new copy machine for around \$15,000. Fred Naatz is going to discuss his options with Shane Drinkwater. Bob Keeney mentioned that due to the lapsing policy we might be able to use some of the excess funds from 2018 to pay for the copy machine.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Dwight Nelson made a motion to adjourn to May 1, 2019 at 9:00 at the Community Service Building large conference room, seconded by Greg Fry. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.