

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

February 5, 2020

The Grant County Department of Social Services Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Beinborn at 9:00 AM. Roll Call was taken with Dwight Nelson, Don Splinter, Greg Fry, Dale Hood and John Beinborn present. Also present was Fred Naatz, Director, Robert Keeney, County Board Chairman and Garry Pluemer, Facilities and Maintenance Manager. The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Dwight Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Dale Hood seconded, the motion carried.

Minutes of December 4, 2019 and December 17, 2019: Don Splinter made a motion to approve the December 4th and December 17th minutes. Nelson seconded the motion, the motion carried.

PERSONNEL: Naatz requested to refill the contracted Targeted Case Management position, as the current worker has been hired for the county social work position. Splinter made the motion, seconded by Fry to approve, motion carried. Naatz shared the revised job description for the Office and Financial Coordinator position, highlighted a few changes made. These changes included some recommendations made by the County finance Director Nancy Scott. Naatz then requested to refill the Financial and Office Coordinator position, Splinter made the motion to refill, seconded by Nelson. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Summary of Vouchers included in the report dated 1/22/2020 was reviewed, Nelson made the motion to approve the voucher report, seconded by Fry. The motion carried. The December 2019 Administrative Report was reviewed, which did not reflect the total amounts for 2019, as some revenues will still be coming in. The out of home care budget is significantly higher than budgeted; otherwise the other programs look to be fairly on target. Splinter made the motion to approve, seconded by Nelson, the motion carried. Training costs for October through December was presented, Fry made the motion to approve, seconded by Hood. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: The department received a letter indicating that a review will be completed for the Protective Payee program later in the month. A representative from Social Security had conducted a training yesterday, and had mentioned the review, and made suggestions on how to prepare for it. We should be in good shape; this is a program that is reconciled often by the finance department.

ADMINISTRATION:

Building Update – Naatz reported that the sliding doors at the front entrance will be installed soon, Keeney clarified that hopefully they will be in this Saturday – the installers have agreed to complete the work on a weekend. Work has been done of the toilets in the main bathroom, with extra support being

added. We are finishing up the last of the punch card items. Naatz also shared that he reviewed the Building Policy, and also had a discussion in regards to it with the Director of Green County, of which policy Grant had utilized as a foundation.

Director's Report – Naatz updated that the department did apply for a grant through Targeted Safety Services Funds, in the amount of \$110,000, and was awarded \$51,300. The funds will be used to address safety concerns in a family that if not addressed, would result in the children being removed. We will need to develop some new services, but the grant would also be able to reimburse for some of the things staff are currently doing. Naatz also shared that in some cases, the department might be funding some things that the public may question, such as paying to clean parts of a house, but the purpose is always driven by addressing safety concerns and being able to keep family together. The staff is starting to prepare for the implementation of the YASI model, and the intense training that will be required to complete work using the new model. We are also looking at the implementation of the Family First requirements, which has a much stronger focus on prevention. Naatz also reported he submitted a report to DCF to summarize what the increased CA funding went towards, which was primarily a reduction of tax levy and the hiring of one additional FTE social worker. Naatz also completed a survey regarding workload and caseload sizes for the child welfare area. Staff is also working on completing the annual report.

Amber Mckelvey and Hilary Sahr presented an update on the trauma informed care program, and the results gathered from several trainings. Overall, attendees demonstrated a large increase in knowledge regarding the topic, and also reported that the presenters were very well received! The board congratulated the workers, and thanked them for their work.

Naatz shared that he will be continuing representation on the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional development System steering committee, with quarterly meetings, by in March there will be a 2 day meeting in Minocqua, as one day will be a joint meeting with the tribal council. The board approved continued participation in the steering committee. Naatz also updated on the Methamphetamine Regional meeting that occurred last week, with monthly meetings be planned, which will be the 4th Wednesday of each month 10-1 PM here at DSS. The primary focus is improving treatment, including Sober Living Houses and prevention, aiming to address the real root causes. Naatz also reported on the review of the department's transportation policy, and some concerns that with staff increasing the number of times they have to transport children, especially in car seats (because volunteer drivers will no longer transport when a car seat is involved) they might not be covered in a case of an accident unless they have commercial level of insurance. We are exploring this further. Splinter referenced the "Tort Act" which applies to government workers.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

Adjournment: Dwight Nelson made a motion to adjourn until April 1, 2020 at 10:38 AM. Dale Hood seconded, motion carried.