

## **SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Grant County Department of Social Services Board meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID. The Grant County Department of Social Services was called to order by Chairperson John Beinborn at 1:30 PM. Roll Call was taken with Dale Hood, Greg Fry, Don Splinter, Robert Scallon, Lester Jantzen, Dwight Nelson and John Beinborn present. Also present was Fred Naatz, Director, Robert Keeney, County Board Chairman, Amanda Degenhardt, Finance Director, Shane Drinkwater IT Director and LeaAnne Smith, Office and Financial Coordinator. The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Dale Hood made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Dwight Nelson seconded, the motion carried.

### **ELECTION OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD OFFICERS**

Nominations open for Chairman of the Social Services Board, John Beinborn nominated, motioned by Dale Hood, seconded by Lester Jantzen, motion carried.

Nominations open for Vice Chairman of Social Services Board, Dale Hood nominated. Nominations closed, cast a unanimous ballot for Dale Hood as Vice Chair of the committee, motion Carried.

Nominations open for Secretary for Social Services Board, Lester Jantzen nominated, motioned by John Beinborn, seconded by Dale Hood, motioned carried.

Minutes of May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, Donald Splinter made a motion to approve the May 6<sup>th</sup> minutes, Greg Fry seconded the motion, the motion carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Fred wanted to focus on out of home care costs for 2019, for the new members, Lester and Robert. Fred explained, whenever a kid is placed out of home there is a cost involved. They can go from foster care to treatment foster care to group homes to residential care center and there is also some cost through corrections. For 2019 the budget was \$550,000 for out of home care costs and the actual amount right now from the report that came in was \$829,808 almost \$280,000 over budget on that. For secure detention it was budgeted for \$1,000 and we spent \$65,000, going over \$64,000. About \$344,000 over budget on the out of home care costs for 2019. The secure detention usually is not budgeted for a lot as LaCrosse is usually used. For short term stays last year we had several kids who received a 30 day discharge from some of the residential care centers and we could not find anyone to take them, so workers were going around to the different residential care centers until we could find a placement. Fred gave an example of a place in Racine at a private facility and a week later they discharged the kid and it went over to the county and got them into LaCrosse. Primarily the reason we are over budget is because we do not have anywhere for the kids to go and it especially got hard with the COVID-19, because no one wanted to take new kids in as they did not know what kind of contact the kids had from

the other places or if they had not been in a place. There is a carryover fund of about \$200,000 for specific cases like this. It is hard to budget for out of home care costs. For example one year DSS spent a low of under 300,000 and several years it was almost a million dollars. It is really challenging as to how to budget for out of home care. Fred explained DSS does a combination of the previous year as to see what was the actual cost spent for a starting point, but DSS also has to do budgets in advance, so the department is not going to know what the numbers are and is projecting out what the numbers are going to be. For example the \$830,000 is a starting point. Things to look at is how close are some of the kids coming out of placement as we have some kids come out and we have other kids who we look at the percentage of chance they are going to escalate and are going to need out of home care placement, that is how we come up with the numbers. This year due to COVID the numbers are probably already high since people cannot go to different places. The DCF gave an extra extraordinary cost to the residential placement facilities due to COVID, so they can continue to give the level of services. They also gave an extra \$300 per kid to the foster homes due to COVID for the Month of May. This was to help out the foster parents being the kids were home more due to no school. It was asked for an example for the people coming on to the committee if the 2019 numbers included the kid who was in Chicago and it was. Fred explained it was costing \$15,000 a month for the kid. There are a lot of different things that has to be looked at when deciding the budget for out of home care placements. Asked where we were at this year, last looked the department was in budget. Naatz questioned if the \$200,000 from carry over fund needs to be approved by the county board to utilize that and balance the budget. Keeney stated how do we pay for the rest, out of budget spending has to be approved at some point. With Amanda being new not sure if she has a handle on that yet, hopefully she can get some guidance from the audit next week. Keeney will look at last year audit to see how much was actually in that fund. It will be addressed the next meeting. Beinborn asked if there were any other options such as grants, etc. Naatz stated no there was not for the 2019 budget.

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Naatz updated on how the Agency is operating under the COVID -19. The Income Maintenance program is done through the Southern Consortium. The ES workers are all working from home except for 4 staff and the Supervisor, CeCe Fishnick. The staff working from home is working out very well. The numbers are down for people applying, but with June usually the people have to be recertified. The state pushed this back a couple of months. Due to this come July the work is going increase for the next 4 or 5 months be pretty significantly.

All the child welfare staff is all working from home including Supervisors and this is working out really well. They are using the Zoom program to have meetings with their families and supervised visitation as we have to have so much interaction with the families. In talking with the Supervisors workers are having about 100 a week. Clark was able to work out with Shane to make it HIPPA Compliant. As things loosen up there is going to be more pressure for the workers to start going to homes and doing face to face. Workers are still going out now if there is a referral for abuse and neglect. Workers are using masks and taking masks with for families to wear as well. The Long Term Care program is pretty similar. It has gotten a little more challenging because we do what are called Watch Reviews. When someone is placed in a nursing home after they came a ward a guardian was appointed to that person, Unified does

this as well, DSS has to do a review every year to make sure it is the most appropriate placement for them and right now with the way nursing homes are operated, staff cannot go into the nursing home to see the records/person. There are 10-15 cases per year that the agency does.

Update new members on the agency vehicle as to why the agency needed it. Naatz explained the insurance reasons for staff with them using their own cars to transport clients. Some counties pay for the commercial insurance for staff and some counties have a company car. Naatz explained the Sheriff's Department had a vehicle available for DSS to purchase, DSS and the Sheriff's Department worked out a deal. There was some work on the air conditioner that had to be done recently on the vehicle. The wheel bearing also needs to be fixed, DSS will get a second estimate on that issue. The money for the air conditioner repair was taken out of the mileage budget due mileage being down. Naatz also explained with staff using their own car they do not want to go into a house where drugs may have been involved and remove a child from the home and then put the child in their own car. Cleaning out the agency car is cleaned the same way for drugs and the COVID. The vehicle is cleaned after workers use it by wiping it down with disinfectant wipes.

Naatz explained on how DSS is going to bring back workers once the go ahead is given. Naatz explained no one has come into the building except for some situations such as if a person are homeless they need to come in and get their mail that is sent here due to the program rules. Most everything is done remotely. Some things discussed in the work group was that once the Grant County Health Departments dashboard buttons are green, which you can find on their website, we can start bringing staff back. Workers will be brought back slowly as a concern is the safety of the staff. As things loosen up our staff will be increasing going into homes and there is a higher risk of people bringing back the illness to the building where there is 40 staff. When we get clear we will bring back workers slowly. Workers who share offices the plan will be to have one work remotely and one will come into office and do a rotation. We will have maintenance do a cleaning in between this. Garry Pluemer is working with Steve Braun to do a lot of signage to remind staff of social distancing and to wipe down copiers, printers. Staff will not have to wear a mask while in their office, but when they do leave it is recommended to wear one when out in the hall and common areas. We can't make staff wear masks due to health issues etc., but are recommending it. The good side of this is there are no services we cannot provide with staff working from home.

Fred explained the Amcor donation of Lancaster Chamber Bucks and how Amcor would like it used. The DSS Board will send out a thank you letter.

Next Meeting will be July 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

Adjournment: Lester made a motion to adjourn Dale seconded, motion carried.