

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

September 2, 2020

The Grant County Department of Social Services Board meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID, with some participants appearing via the Zoom platform. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Beinborn at 9:00 AM. 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, Shane Drinkwater IT, Garry Pluemer Maintenance Supervisor, Clark Thelemann, Social Work Supervisor, Joyce Roling, Personnel Director and LeaAnne Smith, Office and Financial Coordinator. The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Fred suggested moving the agenda topics "Building Update" and "Youth Justice Grant" to just after approval of the minutes. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the changes to the agenda. Dwight Nelson seconded, the motion carried.

Minutes of August 5th meeting: Greg Fry made a motion to approve the August 5th minutes and Dale Hood seconded the motion, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION:

Garry Pluemer provided an update on the CSB: the warranty list is ¾ done. Dubuque Plumbing is working on the hot water piping, all that is left is floors and windows. A brief discussion regarding a new storage shed, and Social Services would like some space since they have two vehicles now. Garry is looking at a couple different types of sheds and is waiting on cost. Bob Keeney updated on the removal of remanence of old building. The piles are all sorted, there was one with contaminated material, one of clean material and we are applying with the DNR for an exemption to bury it all based on the amount of material in the pile. Bob, Brad Bierman and an engineer met and they are working with the DNR to see if that application will be approved. Hopefully, it will be able to all be buried right there. The plan is to get some people up here to get started on the removal of the sewer plant and come up with a plan. Land Conservation is willing to send someone out to assist with the back slopes and how to bury the product. There are two windows that are fogging up in the winter time and are going to be replaced.

Clark presented the Youth Justice Grant. The purpose of applying for the Grant is DSS would like to start putting together some youth justice groups together with kids who have gotten in delinquency trouble. The groups will hopefully help get them some basic life skills that we find a lot of the kids don't have. It would be everything from self-care, to how to express emotions appropriately. This group would also learn how to fill out a job application, basic budgeting, really focusing on not just the delinquency side, but the whole life skills. The amount of the grant applied for is \$50,000 and it does not require any county match. Some of the costs will go towards a local yoga instructor we have used before to come in and teach de-escalation and mindfulness techniques. DSS may purchase some rakes, trash bags and

adopt a highway. Part of the focus is giving back to the community and giving these youth some ownership in the community. The grant is a onetime opportunity, but the people who have applied the prior year can now apply for half of the grant for the following year. Clark received feedback from the state to change parts of the plan and once this is done it would be approved. Dale Hood made a motion to approve the application. Dwight Nelson seconded, the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS/ SUMMARY OF VOUCHERS

Fred reviewed the 2020 General Ledger DSS Management Report Detail. Alternate Care is the highest, we are at 80% and we should be at 50% and it will continue right now to be high. There are two kids we cannot find a placement for, we went to the court and did a trial reunification with the parents. The kids are doing an intensive respite program with Advocates. Advocate's has a respite program where they use their respite providers and they have an intensive day program for 10 hours a day. The kids are getting their needs met, this has been a last alternative because we cannot find any placements for the two kids. It runs about \$8,000 a month plus \$220 a day. There has been discussion with Orion Family Services that Iowa County uses about being able to bring back the intensive in-home therapy to prevent kids from being removed from the home and also when kids are returning home they can get intensive in-home therapy. The cost if we had a dedicated team just for Grant County would be \$214,000. We do have the Targeted Safety Services Funds at little over \$50,000 and plan on using a lot of this money to implement some of this program and some intensive supervision. Talking with Jeff Lockhart, Director of Unified, they are implementing the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program and it is aimed at some of the kids that are in this category. Jeff talked with Orion on Monday and they are open to it as some of these kids are eligible for the CCS program. Unified can also contract with Orion and provide some of these services and be able to bill for it and would be a reimbursement for DSS costs, right now we are in the process of trying to figure it out on how to get the intensive therapy service back up and going again for the county. In talking with Lockhart regarding children who are dual enrolled in the CCS and CLTS program, guidance from the state saying there are two ways you can operate these programs when a kid is eligible for both the CLTS and CCS program. The two ways to case management this is you can have the two case managers in each of those, which is what we have now with Social Services operating the CLTS program for kids with mental health issues and then Unified is operating the CCS program kids with mental health issues. The CCS program would bill for the case management because the CCS and CLTS cannot both bill for it. DSS looked at their budget and decided they have quite a few kids, so this would not make sense. The other way, which Jeff and Fred agreed to, is to have DSS CLTS workers get trained to also become CCS case managers and then they could do both and both of these activities would be billable. Hopefully we can get this going as it would address some of this alternate care costs that is increasing. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the expense budget. Bob Scallon seconded, the motion carried.

Fred would like to work with Amanda on the report to see if there can be less detail for each of the providers. The voucher for the purchase of kids face masks were purchased through the CST program.

Fred will talk with Steve Braun to see if we could use the face masks we have to give out to families. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the vouchers. Dwight Nelson seconded, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION – BUDGET PREPERATION

Fred updated on the 2021 budget, the numbers from the state have been a little slower to come out than usual. The only one we have seen is from the Department of Children and Families and there was a small increase their funding, about \$18,000 more. Most of the funding as far as the revenue goes is reflected from the 2020 budget. Hoping the state has some extra money, so some of these numbers increase. To items that sould remain the same are the State Aid Elder Abuse and Trauma Informed Care. The Trauma Informed Care \$3,000 of revenue is based on the fact that we have an ongoing commitment from Southwest Tech to have DSS provide a Trauma Informed Care training every year and they give us that amount to do that. Hopefully this will be offered in 2021; due to COVID-19, Amber and Hilary, our trainers, have developed an online training. The fee charging was increased a little bit and that was based on history and what we have collected. There are some donations for campership/pool, school donations we were budgeting \$3,500 for that, we had to decrease that as we usually get donations through the county thrift shop and right now they are struggling due to COVID. The county indirect cost allocations: looking at the history of it in 2018 it was a little over \$42,000 in 2019 was \$12,000 and in 2020 \$56,000. The 2021 request went up to \$334,000. Bob, Amanda and Fred are trying to figure out the huge increase in this, Bob stated this is calculated by the third party now and is part of the audit. Most of it is due to the depreciation of the new building. Amanda and Bob are working through it to see if it is truly and expense or can be decreased. This is a lot of the increase we looked at for 2021. The out of home care was increased a bit. It was asked why the carry over and county provided services has increased by \$300,000. Fred stated his understanding is that this is the amount of money that the county needed to be put in for the budget due to it going up. Fred stated the process for budget is in September the oversight board approves the 2021 budget and then it goes to the Executive Committee. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the recommendation to move the budget on. Dale Hood seconded, the motion carried.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fred stated as before his plan is to not make a lot of changes with workers working from home and coming back to work in the office until we have had 3-4 weeks of experience to see what the kids going back to school will do due to the COVID, will look at the numbers again at the end of September. The agency can call up dispatch when there are new referrals to see if there were any positive cases at that address. Due to HIPPA they can tell us if there was a positive case in the home but not the name. This is where we kick in the higher level of PPE. DSS has not kept track of how many families have had positive cases. The workers usually meet with the families outside.

The Foster Parent Incentive Grant was awarded and it was \$29,200. This is going to be used to assist the foster parents we license and to help better support them. One of the goals is to help extend the length of time that they are foster parents with us.

Unified provided Narcan training, all of the social workers, SSS staff and supervisors are trained if needed to use this. Part of the training is to be able to identify if someone overdoses and, fortunately, if you give Narcan to someone who is not overdosing there is no negative affect. Every worker will have 2 containers with them. It was suggested during the training it might be a good idea to have a third training for those who were not able to attend and the Support Unit and Economic Support workers will be trained as well. The cost for the Narcan is around \$200 per can. It is also used as a protective measure for the workers due to them being exposed to drugs and possible overdosing, will keep this on agenda for next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

Adjournment: Dwight Nelson made a motion to adjourn until the next meeting which will be on October 7, 2020 at 9:00 AM. Greg Fry seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.