

## **SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES**

**November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Grant County Department of Social Services Board meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID. 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, 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, Jeff Lockhart Unified Community Services Director, LeaAnne Smith, Office and Financial Coordinator. The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Lester Jantzen made a motion to approve the agenda. Don Splinter seconded, the motion carried.

Minutes of October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting: Don Splinter made a motion to approve the October 7<sup>th</sup> minutes. Lester Jantzen seconded the motion, the motion carried.

### **ADMINISTRATION – GENERAL:**

Garry Pluemer gave building updates: The flooring company was in Saturday to do the floors in the entryway. Did not get the finish as wanted, there is nothing they can do about it without putting a wax on it of some type that has to be maintained on an annual basis as far as strip and wax. There is no maintenance free item they can do to it. What they put on it now was a seal and it absorbs into the floor. They did get all of the busted floor tiles out. There is still the hair line fracture there, but that is the tile itself there is nothing they can do that even the new ones they put in have that hair line fracture. Garry said he is happy with the flooring company as they have done everything they can do it is the product he is not happy with. The flooring company has gone over and above. No regular maintenance has to be done just the regular cleaning, mild detergent if any used. Maintenance is aware as to what they have to do to maintain the floors. The seal is in the tile so don't have to worry about scratching the finish off of it. Coloring looks the same, there are a couple shiny finishes and dull finishes, Garry wanted an even satin finish throughout the whole floor, so it would look uniform no matter where you went and that was not the outcome. Fred asked about the hot water system as far as there being a circulator in there so when you turn on the hot water in the building it would get hot pretty quick, wondering if it got taken out as when you turn the hot water on in the staff bathrooms and breakroom it takes a long time to get hot water. Garry asked if this was just recently as he just had a circuit setter, it is a flow regulator on the hot water return line for your potable hot water. It went out and Garry had to order a new one it is a specific item and it does take a little time for hot water to get to that location. Garry will look into it as maybe a valve got closed inadvertently and maybe can be opened up a little bit. Will see what the flow rate on it is. Fred will send Garry an email to look into this.

Fred updated on the Wisconsin Counties Association 2021-2022 Legislative Agenda, we got these from WCA and the ones picked out Fred thought were important especially for the families Social Services

work with. Since some of them overlap Fred asked Jeff from Unified to come in and go over them as a couple of them Unified operates and they overlap so well. When we talk about the Birth to Three one of the things we are required to do now is when we have a Child Protective Service assessment where there is allegations of child abuse and neglect we have to make the appropriate referral to the Birth to Three program. It is a preventive program for families we get involved in, children who have delays that can be very stressful for parents and a stressful situation can be correlated with a higher chance of abuse and neglect occurring. The sooner we can get in and work with these kids the more they are able to develop more appropriately and reach a higher level of functioning. Jeff Lockhart stated Unified has an \$114,694 MOE that Unified uses in addition to state and federal funds to run the Birth to Three Program. WCA is concerned about the cost increasing and more of these costs falling upon the counties. They are asking for more funding including a one-time four million dollar increase and an additional 3% increase in the second year of the bi-annual budget. The Children Long Term Support Program, we are one of the few counties who does not have a maintenance of effort, so our costs are completely covered by the 59% of the federal funds and 41% of the state funds, most of what is being proposed is not going to apply to us. The major issue Jeff touched on is the mental health crisis services. In the past there was option to use Boscobel Hospital, but that was closed in 2008. We had an option of sending people who needed to be emergency detention hospitalized to Mendota up until that was closed in 2014. Ever since 2014 the only state psychiatric hospital we have had that cannot say no is Winnebago. This has had huge ramifications both for the point of view of the individual who has to be transported 4 hours in handcuffs in the back of a police car to receive mental health treatment in Winnebago. It is exceedingly costly to the Sheriffs and Police Departments to have extra staff to transport these people to Winnebago. These transports can take anywhere from 6 to 11 hours and have even lasted all night with law enforcement having to wait for medical clearance that has to happen prior to the hospitalizations. The WCA request is asking for more regional services. Ideally to have some regional crisis centers, so instead of transporting some people all the way to Winnebago we can have a center within an hour or so away for individuals experiencing mental health crisis could be taken to that local center, which would be more effective, more cost effective for us and a huge cost savings for law enforcement and a win-win all the way around. Jeff asked if there were any questions about any of these programs. John asked if it was needed to lobby for some of the additional payments coming up for this before some of the representatives. Jeff stated this is something on the WCA Legislative Agenda, so WCA is asking for this, but he will also be involved with this. He stated often they have the Capital Days where people go up to the Capital and speak about it. Last year there was a huge meeting, particularly with Law Enforcement where they discussed the burden and the cost they were experiencing due to Winnebago being the only option. This has been on the front burner for quite some time. Dale asked what the reason was they closed Boscobel Hospital, Jeff stated the reason was because they switched to a different classification of hospital as it was a certain funding source where they would receive more funding, but that classification did not include being a psychiatric hospital. There are fewer private hospitals providing psychiatric hospitals because it is a money losing business. The Medicaid reimbursement for these types of services does not meet the cost of the hospital, so in Grant and Iowa counties we do not have a single psychiatric bed in a private hospital. Over in State of Iowa they have less mental health funding then we do and they are not interested in taking people from Wisconsin into their limited mental health care services. It is a funding issue and there needs to be a higher

reimbursement for psychiatric hospitalizations so we can at least break even if not profitable for private hospitals. John asked if states have ever been accessible to use more Wisconsin clients, like Dubuque. Jeff stated it has been on a small basis now and then as in the past where a particular hospital might have an agreement with a particular county. It is becoming less and less willing to do that and due to law enforcement having to travel across state lines raises another issue. Greg asked if the Birth to Three was available to all the public or is there an income base with it. Jeff stated it is required and falls under the IDEA (Federal Individuals with Disability Educational Act) and is required to be offered to infants and toddlers with disabilities who are eligible for early intervention services whether Medicaid, private insurance ability to pay or no ability to pay it is required to be offered. Greg asked if the public was aware of these programs that the county does and if there was a way to get this information out to the public. Jeff stated in this case with the Birth to Three Program referrals are often made by doctors as they are going to most likely be the first person to have encounter with a child who has some kind of delays. Greg asked on the mental health crisis not having a facility, Orchard Manor has a wing not being utilized is this something that can be made to use for this, possibly Law Enforcement donate to it or fund it to make it economically useful. Jeff stated the only model he has seen to make something like this profitable is something like Clarke County where they have an Alzheimer's Unit and have different counties join a consortium that have a flat annual fee they pay to maintain it, so Clark county can pay their bills. A side from there being an increase in Medicaid reimbursement the only way this can be done is a consortium model where other counties bought into it and pay a flat annual fee. What the WCA is asking for is the state to provide the funding to create up to three regional mental health crises so we have at least four options instead of just one. Dale asked where the Federal Government was with mental health funding. Jeff stated it is kind of a patch work, for example several years ago they increased the funding for people with Opioid addiction as currently more people die from Opioid overdoses than car accidents. 3-4 years ago the Federal Government began to send money to the state to meet the Opioid crisis. Jeff said Unified applied for the grant and the past two years they have had an Opioid grant that gives them extra money to treat people with an Opioid addiction. In the coming year this grant has been expanded to also treat people with Methamphetamines addiction. In these cases the Federal Government is sending us more money, but it is not giving us more money across the board. For example in 1955 there were 405 psychiatric beds for every hundred thousand people in Wisconsin, by 2005 there were only 13 psychiatric beds for every hundred thousand people this, means psychiatric beds in Wisconsin decreased by 97% between 1955 and 2005.

Fred explained the following programs:

**Subsidized Guardianship:** When kids need to be out of the home and get some permanency if there is an extended family member that is willing to take guardianship of the child they can apply to get financial support for the child living with them.

**Transferring Jurisdiction over 17 Year old youth back to Juvenile Court:** Once you turn 17 in the state of Wisconsin you get treated legally as an adult. If you do something and you are 17 you go to adult court, you can go to jail, if it is a felony it is on your record for life. Since then there has been a confirmation there are not services available in the adult system for the 17 year old. Part of this tied into when you are 17-18 years old they are saying now with the brain imagery and development people don't get their

full potential to make logical decisions and control their impulses until they are 25-26 years old. There has been a push for 17 year old to go back to a Social Services program. We can give them those services, but again to do that we need the funding. Fred stated he thinks this is a good idea to have them come back to social services as we do have better services.

**Income Maintenance Administration Allocation:** Foodshare and Healthcare cases have increased significantly. Asking the state since workloads increased to give more funding.

**Prevention Focus and Intensive In-home Family Therapy Services:** Jeff, Tom and Fred have been talking about the meth program and the goal really should be how do you start to prevent people to use Meth and getting addicted? We want to have treatment but ideally you go back and try to do the prevention. We have been working with Jeff on this. Jeff explained the flyer on prevention; it is another way of saying an ounce of prevention is worth an ounce of cure and every dollar we can spend up front before people have developed a major problem is going to save a whole lot of money on the far end when families are falling apart, people are going to jail, lose their jobs. We were able to use some state funding, partly a block grant and partly a recently opioid grant, as we talked about to hire a prevention specialist who's only job is to work on trying to find ways of preventing people from becoming addicted to substances and we are happy we were able to begin that this year. John asked if there has been significant progress in the Opioid crisis being made. Jeff stated nationwide there has been a slight decrease in Opioid deaths in the last couple of years. Fortunately right now Grant County is not a high area for Opioid overdoses we are in the bottom third or bottom quarter and hopefully we can keep it from becoming a big problem, Meth is a different story.

LeaAnne summarized on the Home Energy Assistance Program, which consist of the Support Unit, Amy, Cindy and herself. The program starts in August where short apps and abbreviated apps are started. People can start calling to set up an appointment September 15<sup>th</sup>. In the past both office and phone, but due to COVID we are only doing phone appointments.

The program runs Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup> and due to COVID the state did extend the 2020 heating assistance through 9/30/2020.

Other services provided include: The WRAP program, Crisis Assistance, WHEAP – Furnace Program, Weatherization and Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund. LeaAnne explained what these different programs are and how you qualify for these programs.

**Staff Updates:** Chloe Kauffman who was the part-time CST worker sent in a letter of resignation. The plan is to not refill this position as the fulltime CST worker feels she can handle the workload at this time. CeCe let Fred know the feds pushed reviews back again. It was anticipated October and November would be really busy as they would have to do the regular reviews and then the old reviews. Due to this being pushed back another three months some of the Economic Support Staff is able to help the Health Department out three days a week with contact tracing. Also, the Economic Support staff is helping with phones while the Support Unit has Heating Assistance appointments. Elder Abuse referrals are starting to pick up due to self and financial neglect. Child Protective cases we had thought and the state as well, once COVID hit the cases would go down significantly. Clark and Krystle looked at the

numbers and in Grant County the numbers were not that much different when you look at it overall from the previous years.

### **Director's Report**

How we continue to the COVID Pandemic: Wisconsin is seeing the highest numbers for COVID since it started. For the Income Maintenance 6 or 7 of the workers we were able to tap into the extra CARES funding and get laptops for them as the state was pushing for Income Maintenance to have laptops and this way they have the ability to work from home. We have had two staff test positive for COVID. These were not transmitted internally; the people who tested positive got it from outside of the Agency. We want to keep staff safe and the workload is still there.

**Narcan training follow up:** Fred showed what the Narcan looks like as there is much interest in it. Fred explained how you administer it. There are two in a box and the cost is \$75.00 for a box and can be held onto for up to 2-3 years. If it is used on the person and they are not overdosing there is no harm to the person. Unified does get them for no cost as it is part of the Opioid response.

**Issues with Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services:** Molly did receive her training certificate in October. It was not long after our last board meeting ended Bob Keeney sent out an email to State Representative Tranel's office and Marklein sharing the difficulty counties are having with DSPS.

**General Updates:** Due to the cold weather we are looking at places to conduct supervised visits. We have had a hard time finding a place due to the pandemic. We have talked to Churches. Two staff came out and removed a lot of the items in the family viewing room, which we built for this. We will start using that room and we are developing a policy for this.

We got 10 applicants for the Service Support Specialist position. We will interview 4-6 of the applicants. We have some good candidates.

One thing we have been talking about internally is about six months ago when we went through all the duties of the Social Services Board, one of the duties was the board to evaluate some of the services we provide. We have been asking some of the different programs to come up with some ways to measure that for the board and show how effective these services are.

Fred had sent out a memo to the board asking for some feedback on a couple of areas. One of them was on the board minutes. Lester stated he likes the minutes they are not abbreviated, it refreshes your memory before the next board meeting. Minutes will continue to be detailed. Fred asked if there was anything different that could be done at the board meetings for the new members. It was stated no, the meetings have been very helpful and they are a learning curve and there are a lot of programs.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS/ SUMMARY OF VOUCHERS**

Fred stated the entire budget we are at 81% of Revenue and 75% expenses and this is through September. Alternate Care is at 106% already, we are over budget on this through September. Secure Detention we had \$7500 budgeted and we are \$2,000 over budget. We went from 24 to 29, kids we have more kids in out of home care that we are paying services for. The positive is the one high end kid we were paying daily respite of \$15,000 a month for is no longer in the placement and is in a shelter and is doing very well. The challenge is we cannot use money for Alternate Care from other funding. In the years of working here we have never had so many kids in the high level of care treatment these kids need. Fred talked with Jeff to see if Unified could sit down and brainstorm to see if we are missing something and come up with options for some of the high level of care kids. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the financial reports. Lester Jantzen seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Training Report: Staff has been doing a lot of virtual trainings on Ethics and Boundaries, a lot of Safety trainings. We have our own staff providing our Trauma Informed Care training, which is a 16 hour virtual training and got some positive feedback on that.

Next Meeting will be December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 AM

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

Adjournment: Dwight made a motion to adjourn Greg seconded, motion carried.