

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

March 3, 2021

The Grant County Department of Social Services Board meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID, with some board members appearing via zoom (z). The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Beinborn at 9:00 AM. Roll Call was taken with Dale Hood, Greg Fry (z), Don Splinter, Lester Jantzen, Robert Scallon, Dwight Nelson (z) and John Beinborn present. Also present was Fred Naatz, Director, Bob Keeney County Board Chairman (z), Shane Drinkwater IT Director, Clark Thelemann, Social Work Supervisor (z). 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 February 3, 2021 meeting: Dwight Nelson made a motion to approve the February 3rd, minutes. Robert Scallon seconded the motion, the motion carried.

PERSONNEL: Fred updated the Board on the Community Services Building, highlighting a few issues with the tile flooring in the main lobby. Fred, Bob Keeney and Brad from epic went through and looked at the tiling. There are going to be some cracks in the tile due to some of the manufacturing and that is normal. There is one big crack that goes all the way across the floor and they are going to replace those. Brad suggested removing the grout in different places due to the tiles expanding and contracting with the different weather temperature, the grout is keeping it from expanding. There are places by the bathroom the grout is pulling away. They will be putting different grout in places, which will allow some expansion and contraction. They are also going to be sealing the floor as some of the floor looks shiny and some look dull. Epic said they will stand behind the product.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The board reviewed the vouchers Accounts Payable Reports, printed 02.11.2021. Mileage was up due to workers turning in their mileage for 2020. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Dale. The vouchers were approved. The 2021 DSS Management report was reviewed, with out-of-home care expenses again being the driving expenses. There are a few kids coming out of placement. There some new kids that may be headed to a Juvenile Correctional Facility. Don made a motion to approve the Administrative Report, seconded by Dwight, the motion carried. There was no training cost to report.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADMINISTRATION – GENERAL:

Intensive In home therapy and supervised visitation proposal – Naatz explained “there are different pots of money, one called the Targeted Safety Support Funds, which the allocation for this year was a little over \$50,000 that we received”. We also reallocated money from the Safe and Stable Family funding we received, which was \$48,000. We reallocated this money to fund the Intensive Home Therapy and

supervised visitation services. Fred spoke with Jeff Lockhart from Unified and they are hoping to build up an internal team that will be able to provide these services and use this funding to support it. As we looked into it the challenge we ran into is the Targeted Support Safety Funds had to be tied into an individual family. It could be used some but only until there was a full caseload. Another option is to contract with Orion Family Services to provide these services. This is the right way to go, because if we make the referral we can tap into the individual family that we are seeing and be able to fund that.

Orion did meet with Unified last week and will be submitting a contract or credentials to become a provider for the CCS program. The CCS program provides more intensive services for both adults and kids that receive services for mental health or drug and alcohol treatment. If they are eligible for medical assistance they can potentially be in the CCS program.

Clark updated on the usage of Methamphetamine - Clark explained right now we have ten kids in regular foster care nine of them is due to drug involvement by parents. Right now the vast majority of “drug involvement is methamphetamine, even if there is opioid involved, also seeing methamphetamine”. The second category was relative or unlicensed care, for example an aunt or family friend who is caring for the kid. We have 16 kids right now in relative or unlicensed care, of those 16 kids 12 of them are due to drug use. The next tier of treatment foster care which is higher need kids, which means higher cost. We have five kids in treatment foster home two of the five are due to drug involvement. When all numbers totaled together there is thirty-one. Out of the thirty-one, twenty three of them are drug involvement. There are no kids in residential or group homes due to drug involvement, which are the higher cost placements. The concerning part of the numbers is these kids are young.

2020 Annual Report- Fred went through the 2020 Annual Report with the DSS board.

Director's Report- Governor released his proposed budget. One of the changes that could impact Social Services would be the ACT 10 legislation, which eliminated Unions, Union representation for public employees. The budget has over turned this and now will allow Unions and representation for public employees to negotiate more than the cost of living raise. There is a good belief this will not get passed. Another impact possibly on Social Services is accepting the affordable care act money for the Medicaid expansion. If they expand this they would potentially save \$650 million dollars, it would go from 100% to 138% poverty level. This means more people would become eligible for Medicaid program. If this did go through it would be a pretty big work caseload. Legislature has no interest in accepting these dollars. If it did happen it would be a pretty big increase in the workload for the Income Maintenance workers. Included in the budget is an increase in Income Maintenance staff. Also included in the budget is training for Methamphetamine treatment. Expansion for the Alzheimer Caregiver program another million dollars, the Children and Family Aid allocation another ten million dollars.

Social Services Department COVID Plan Update - Nate Dreckman sent out an email that he was planning on unlocking the main doors. ADRC and DSS decided to keep their doors locked. The plan for DSS is to shoot for 50% of staff to come back to the building when the risk level is low enough. In talking with Jeff Kindrai his recommendation is to look at the risk levels in the county. We should be at a medium risk

level in the county to start making changes and right now we are at a high risk. We told staff that half will be back working in the building starting April 1st, but that is if we are at a medium risk level.

O'Rourke Dementia Stabilization Unit facility/Emergency Protective Placement facility - Staff from several counties has been working on this for the last couple years. Statute requires us to identify a facility that is our emergency protective placement facility. This is where people go who have dementia and are not able to go to Winnebago. They are waiting for final approval. The issue they are having is it is attached to their nursing home.

Children's Long Term Support caseload has increased significantly over the years will have to look into more staffing, possibly contract a ½ time position for this. Policy changes for Kinship Care Program. Clark and staff drafted some policies. Fred will send out by email prior to next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENT- None

ADJOURMENT- At 10:53 AM, Dwight made a motion to adjourn until April 7, 2021, which was seconded by Dale. The motion carried, the meeting was adjourned

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