

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

October 6th, 2021

The Grant County Department of Social Services Board meeting was held, with some board members appearing via zoom (z). The meeting was called to order by board member Dale Hood at 9:00 AM. Roll Call was taken with Don Splinter, Lester Jantzen, Robert Scallon, Greg Fry (z), Dwight Nelson (z) present. Also present Fred Naatz, Director, Bob Keeney County Board Chairman, Garry Pluemer, Maintenance Supervisor (z), LeaAnne Smith, Office & Financial Coordinator (z), Shane Drinkwater, Director of IT. John Beinborn was excused from meeting. The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Lester made a motion to approve the agenda. Don Splinter seconded, the motion carried.

Minutes of September 1st, 2021 meeting: Don Splinter made a motion to approve the September 1st, minutes. Bob Scallon seconded the motion, the motion carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING MAINTENANCE UPDATE: Fred stated things are going well; a thank you to Dan and Pete for putting furniture together we purchased with money we had from a CST grant to improve the waiting room. Garry had no updates.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Summary of Vouchers: The board reviewed the Vouchers Accounts Payable Reports, printed 09.29.2021. Fred stated he does not like how the Voucher Report is broken down in small categories. LeaAnne stated this is how it is pulled out of WISACWIS when Amy pays these. Fred stated we still have the two placements at Lad Lake, which is almost \$14,000 and \$14,500. The payment to the County of Trempealeau is a placement where someone needs a locked unit in a nursing home because of behaviors. Trempealeau will only contract with counties. Even though this person has sufficient funds to self-pay they don't accept anybody individually; they only accept county placements. DSS has to approve the placement; they bill us and the statute allows us to recoup the cost. It was asked if Fred knew the longevity of the kids placed at Lad Lake. One of the kids was scheduled to go back home, but the behaviors of the kid has escalated again. The other placement the kid turns 18; unfortunately we have some challenging kids right now. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the summary of vouchers. Bob Scallon seconded, the motion carried.

Administrative Report 2021: Fred stated under the DCF/State Aid the budget is \$1.5 million; if we have \$900,000 for out of home care placements that leaves us \$600,000 to cover salaries and wages etc. this shows how underfunded the state does for this program. When looking at the state budget the governor's budget had a fairly significant increase again for the Department of Children and Families, but this was stripped out by Joint Finance. One of the kids we are paying for, a decision will be made if they will switch to juvenile court or continue with adult court. If they end up going to adult court then it is the Sheriffs responsibility to house the person. The judge will make a decision in 60 days whether or

not the child will stay in juvenile court or adult court. Secure detention we are 100% expended this is related to this particular case where they are trying to decide. Alternate care is still running high. We are at 58% revenue and 67% expenses. Lester Jantzen made a motion to approve the Administrative Report. Don Splinter seconded, the motion carried.

Training Costs: Fred explained we had three people attend the Juvenile Justice Conference. This is the only conference they receive training on Juvenile Intake. Robert Scallon made a motion to approve the Training Costs. Don Splinter seconded, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Fred stated CeCe Fishnick, Economic Support Supervisor received an email regarding a private shopper that went through our Southern Consortium Call Center. The private shopper felt inclined to let CeCe know what a wonderful experience it was. There are five different categories they get rated on and it was exceptional.

ADMINISTRATION – GENERAL:

Refill LTE Clerical Position and two Economic Support positions - Fred stated John approved to refill these positions. Nicci Vosberg, clerical LTE, we would bring in during the fuel season she was not able to return. We need approval to refill this position. Economic Support workers, Miranda Addison and Melissa Wehrle submitted their resignations. Melissa left due to needing a much more active type of employment. Miranda came from Rock County and worked for Workforce Development over there and really liked it. She ended up finding a job with Workforce Development in Grant County. We did get the LTE position filled and we have interviews Friday for the Economic Support positions. We had four people apply for the Economic Support, with this position you have to take a test; three out of the four passed it. Don Splinter made a motion to approve refilling the LTE Clerical and two Economic Support positions. Lester Jantzen seconded, the motion carried.

ECHO Electronic Health Record to replace CSM database – Fred stated this is a program we were looking at replacing CSM with. Unified was looking at this program as well. It was suggested since we have the same programs we may be interested in it. There would be a total of 35 users and DSS would have 5 of them. The cost for Social Services was higher than anticipated. In talking with Shane, Amanda and Bob we decided that the cost was really high and we have so much other stuff going on in the county that trying to implement a new program would stretch us beyond our abilities.

COVID Response /DSS Update: Fred explained the Department is continuing to wear face masks. It was decided the workers who share an office work from home or another office, so there is only one in an office at a time.

SUD Grant 2021-2022 Update – Fred explained this is a substance abuse grant. Jeff Lockhart from Unified went back and changed the categories in a recent grant that expired in September to include a significant amount of money so we could do Intensive In-Home Therapy program for people who either are addictive or recovering from opioid, meth or heroin. Orion is coming out and working with three

families, Jeff Lockhart is looking at the next year application, which goes from October 1st, 2021 through September 30th, 2022. We initially were looking at \$150,000 to fund this Intensive In-Home. First we want to make sure we can spend this money. In talking with Clark and Krystle they do not think we will be able to spend the money. The families that are currently working with prior don't have issues with meth. We have three families working with Orion right now and two on the waiting list. A lot of the families we have with meth issues the parents are not around to participate in treatment. It was decided we will not do this grant for the next year.

Director's Report – Fred stated we were not able to use the CST grant for the ECHO; we were able to use some funds for the waiting room to make it more welcoming. We are looking into purchasing some art work for the hallway walls. Staff is continuing to do the United Way 21 week Challenge.

CITIZEN COMMENT- None

ADJOURNMENT- At 10:00 AM, Dwight made a motion to adjourn until November 3rd, 2021, which was seconded by Don. The motion carried, the meeting was adjourned

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