

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

March 2nd, 2022

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 Chairperson John Beinborn at 9:00 AM. Roll Call was taken with Dale Hood, Don Splinter, Lester Jantzen, Robert Scallon, Greg Fry (z), Dwight Nelson present. Also present Fred Naatz, Director, Bob Keeney County Board Chairman, Garry Pluemer, Maintenance Supervisor, LeaAnne Smith, Office & Financial Coordinator (z), Shane Drinkwater, Director of IT (z). The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Dale Hood made a motion to approve the agenda without change. Lester Jantzen seconded, the motion carried.

Minutes of January 5th, 2021 meeting: Donald Splinter made a motion to approve the January 5th, minutes. Greg Fry seconded the motion, the motion carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING MAINTENANCE UPDATE: Fred stated Dan will be shampooing the carpets in the offices first and then the hallways. Staff will adjust their schedule and will work from home on the day their office is being done. There are some more cracks in the tile, Garry is aware of this. One is from an existing spot. Garry will address it this summer as he wants to see what happens when there is summer humidity in the building and see if stuff closes up and what the movement of the tile is.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Summary of Vouchers: Fred explained some of the costs from the Youth Justice Grant. The program THRIVE is funded through this grant. It is for developing dependent living skills for kids. Clark and his staff developed this. A former employee who does yoga has taught yoga classes with the youth to teach them how deal with structure of life. People have come in from banks to teach them about finances, how to maintain cars. The purchase of water bottles with THRIVE on them go to the kids who go through the program. Fred explained the Quadient bill, which is for the postage machine. There were some late charges due to the way the AP week fell. This will be paid through ACH to avoid these charges. The electric amount for \$1,100 was questioned. Fred explained this was DSS portion of the bill. LeaAnne explained Lorna figures the amount out for each department and then emails it out. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the summary of vouchers. Dale Hood seconded, the motion carried.

Administrative Report 2021: Fred stated for 2021 there are some bills still out there. We are \$73,000 over spent for 2021 out of four and a half million. Alternate care total we are \$70,000 over spent. The last few years' alternate care has over spent a couple hundred thousand. Fred explained the Kinship Assessment and Benefits, the \$60,000 of assessment and \$5,000 for benefits is what was budgeted, but actually when the final contract with the state it was \$90,000 for assessment and \$9,000 for benefits, so it was actually under spent. Dwight Nelson made a motion to approve the Administrative Report. Bob Scallon seconded, the motion carried.

Administrative Report 2022: Fred stated looking at alternate care, one of the kids is doing trial reunification at home that was in Lad Lake and cost \$15,000 a month. It is a struggle right now as the kid is acting out at school and home. Social Services are working with the Law Enforcement. If need to find another placement it will be a struggle due to lack of staff. Lester made a motion to approve the Administrative Report. Dwight seconded, the motion carried.

Training Costs: Fred explained there were only a couple trainings for the month of January that was virtual. Don made a motion to approve the Training Costs. Bob seconded, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Fred explained the Thrift Shop moved locations and this has helped their business tremendously. They made a \$1,000 donation to the Kinship Big Buddy program.

ADMINISTRATION – GENERAL:

CLTS and Adult Protective Services potential workload changes/agreement with Unified Community Services – Fred explained Social Services were appointed by the County Board to be the lead agency for Adult Protective Services, Elder Abuse and Adults at risk for abuse. Social Services has a MOU with Unified and if we get a referral for someone who's primary reason is AODA, mental health or developmental disabilities we send it over to Unified and they handle it. Last year they did about 200 hours of direct services. We were able to bill the program \$20,000, we get about \$48,000. Right now we split it up between the two agencies. The CLTS program is contracted through Unified. They contract with us to case manage the kids with mental health and physical disabilities. Unified does the autism spectrum. Fred, Director from Iowa County and Jeff from Unified have been talking about a way to better provide services. Would it be more effective to have one agency do APS and one do CLTS? They currently have a Supervisor, two staff social workers who operate the Birth to 3, CLTS and APS. They are currently hiring a fulltime worker for the Birth to 3, so the other two workers can focus on CLTS. Fred stated he would like to come up with a MOU and review after a year and if it is not working out we can go back to the way it was. Lester Jantzen made a motion to approve the CLTS and Adult Protective Services workload/changes/agreement with Unified Community. Bob Scallon seconded, the motion carried.

Parent Peer Support program/funding through Safe and stable Families: The SSF program has reallocated some of the funding. It was decided to develop a parent peer support position. This will not be a fulltime position. Would like someone who has gone through the Child Protective Services program successfully to work with a family as a mentor.

Changes to Family Viewing Room planning: Fred explained we use the family room more often than in the old building, especially due to COVID and found this room was way too small. Staff came up with an idea to tear down the wall that separates the family room and an office, which no one is using. We are working with Garry who is talking to Brad of Epic on what the cost would be. The funding would come from the Safe and Stable Program since there is some extra money. It was suggested putting in a temporary wall in case it would need to be used as an office down the road.

Pepin County Resolution on "To Eliminate the Badger Care Eligibility Cliff": Pepin County passed a resolution to eliminate the Badger Care eligibility cliff. This means if you are financially eligible for Badger Care and go over the financial amount where you are eligible and suddenly not eligible due to making too much money you will lose everything. This is urging the state legislator and governor to change it where there is a feasible fee scale. For example if you are over by \$2,000 maybe you pay 10% or 20% and then eventually you are off the program. Right now it is difficult for people to go off of programs. People want to work fulltime, but if they make too much money they lose their Badger Care and they can't afford to lose their Badger Care, so cannot work fulltime, this is what this really addresses. They resolve the eliminate fee scale additional dollars. Fred asked if the DSS board would be interested in moving this to the full county board. The board said it makes sense to take it to the County Board. Greg Fry made a motion to take the Pepin County Resolution to the full County Board. Dale Hood seconded, the motion carried.

Income Maintenance staff assisting MILES – overtime pay approval with full funding from state: Fred explained that the MILES program is the Milwaukee County Income Maintenance program. They occasionally get behind and ask other income maintenance workers in the state to help them out. They are offering if workers are willing to work overtime to do Milwaukee County work the state will pay for overtime. They are basing the rate on Dane County rate, which is \$43.99 an hour. The regular rate for Dane County worker is \$27.48 and at time and a half it was \$41.22 an hour, they added 7% to the rate. Fred sent the numbers over to Amanda to look at the rate. CeCe said there are 4 to 5 workers who are willing to do this and it is only for a couple of months. This would not take away from their regular daily work. Lester Jantzen made a motion to approve the Income Maintenance staff assisting MILES. Bob Scallon seconded, the motion carried.

DSS Board Member Recognitions: Fred recognized three board members with Certificate of Recognition Awards, Dale Hood, Dwight Nelson, Greg Fry.

Director's Report – Fred explained back in January Tonya White talked with the auditors and they do not need the annual report, so there will not need a county wide annual report. Fred explained statute 46.1. Fred stated he plans on doing a Social Services annual report. Fred explained usually the annual report is due the end of February. With only Social Services doing the annual report there is no deadline and the numbers will be more accurate.

Fred explained some safety concerns staff has. When jailors are released they wonder outside the building. For example: two employees went out the back door and there was someone released from jail right out the door as they walked out. Fred stated staff would like a camera outside this door, so when they leave they can see who is outside the door. There will be a Safety committee put together of DSS staff.

Fred explained there are a couple workers testing out Samsung phones. In the past workers would leave their mileage on their desk, so Supervisors would know where they are, but with workers working from home now this is not being done. The plan is to replace the old cell phones with android phones.

CITIZEN COMMENT- None

ADJOURMENT- At 10:20 AM, Dwight made a motion to adjourn until April 6th, 2022, which was seconded by Dale Hood. The motion carried, the meeting was adjourned.