

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

November 3rd, 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 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 (z) 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, Joyce Roling, Personnel Director, Tonya White, County Clerk (z), Amanda Degenhardt, Finance Director (z), Krystle Lorenz, Social Work Supervisor (z), Clark Thelemann, Social Work Supervisor (z), Justice (z). The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Fred ordered to move Clark and Krystle's presentation of YASI after the approval of minutes. Lester made a motion to approve the agenda without change. Dwight Nelson seconded, the motion carried.

Minutes of October 6th, 2021 meeting: Dwight Nelson made a motion to approve the October 6th, minutes. Greg Fry 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 10.26.2021. Fred stated the \$6,000 purchase of blankets was for Elder Fest using funds through the WHEAP program that had to be used by September 30th. CDW purchases were through the CST grant to increase technology. Tablets were purchased for the Service Support Specialists, so they can share parenting videos with families when doing a visit instead of them using their laptops. John questioned The County of Trempealeau. Fred stated this is a nursing home that serves people with behavioral problems and are more aggressive. Most nursing homes will not take people with these issues; Trempealeau specializes in this and only contracts with counties. The statute allows Grant County to bill the person if they have funding to cover this then the Guardian reimburses Grant County. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the summary of vouchers. Greg Fry seconded, the motion carried.

Administrative Report 2021: Fred stated we are through 10 months, which is 83% of the budget would be on target for being expended. Revenues are at 89% and expenses are at 81%. Targeted Case Management budgeted \$12,000 and we have received \$14,000. We are going to look into the AMSO registration fees as some of the social workers trainings were billed to AMSO. Alternate care is almost expended. Good news is we are down to one person placed in residential care center, which will decrease the alternate care costs, but foster care is high. CLTS Mental Health we budgeted \$8,000 for case management and we have billed for \$15,000. CLTS Physical Disabilities we budgeted \$11,500 and

have billed for \$18,000. These are high but this is our case management expenses. This then translates into increased revenue. Some of the insurances and workman comp was higher than we budgeted for. Dwight Nelson made a motion to approve the Administrative Report. Greg Fry seconded, the motion carried.

Training Costs: Fred explained we had \$185 in trainings. Amber and Morgan the Foster Care Coordinators attended a virtual training regarding updates and how to improve on how to do foster care. Some of our foster parents and Service Support Specialist attended a Triple P Teen training virtually. This training is to help parents with parenting teens. Dale Hood made a motion to approve the Training Costs. Lester Jantzen seconded, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Fred stated did not receive any.

ADMINISTRATION – GENERAL:

YASI presentaion – Clark explained it is the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument. The process when a youth commits crime law enforcement investigates, arrests, and then refers charges to the agency. When we receive the charges two of our social workers are Juvenile Court Intake Workers and they look at the referred material make sure all of the elements of the crime are present and if they are they make a recommendation to the District Attorney's office as to what should happen. This is where YASI starts after the Juvenile Court Intake worker receives the paperwork they do a 32 question assessment with the youth and family. This assessment looks at prior police contacts, how they are doing in school. The role of the assessment is to get a better picture of the youth's risk reoffending. After this is done it will show the worker if the youth is low, medium or high risk. The worker will make a recommendation to the District Attorney's office as far as to what should happen. The District Attorney's office will review this and they can agree with the recommendation or they can choose to do something else. If it goes to the stage of the District Attorney wanting to file charges it will then go to court, while waiting for it to go to court we will assign an ongoing social worker, the social worker will prepare a court report and recommendations as far as what should take place so the youth does not reenter the system. The social worker then completes the other part of the YASI assessment, which is an 87 question assessment. When this is completed they are able to make a better recommendation. Prior to having an assessment tool the best we had was a hunch. This is an evidence based tool it will tell us what the youth and family strengths and need areas are. We can then develop a case plan around this and get the youth back on the right track. Using a tool like this is beneficial as there has been a lot of study if you are too involved with a youth who is low risk you can actually increase the rate of offending. We want to make sure we are focusing on the medium and high risk offenders. Starting December 1st all social workers will start using this for all new cases.

2022 DSS Budget Update - Fred stated the board approved the budget to send on. Fred stated a few years ago Social Services had a large carry over fund. The county then changed its policy that carryover funds were required to be transferred at the end of the year over to the county general funds. Fred stated from the audit there was \$922,355 of social services carryover that had not gotten transferred

over to the general funds. Fred stated the executive committee looked at this and balancing the 2022 budget we are still over \$500,000 short, the recommendation was Social Services could decrease their tax levy by \$507,957 and would take this from the carryover money. This was a way to balance the budget. Next year when doing the 2023 budget Social Services tax levy will be \$500,000 shorter. When the report come out and shows percentage of increase each department has, Social Services will be huge in 2023. Amanda stated the carryover money was going to be removed from the Social Service fund balance no matter what. The Executive Committee chose instead of moving it all to the general fund as it should have been a couple years ago to utilize some of it in balancing the budget. The remainder left will be moved. In the policy it states each year a maximum of \$200,000 in the fund balance this is to help Social Services cover some of the excessive amounts due to the alternate care facilities. Bob Keeney stated last year the same scenario was done with the highway department and Amanda balanced it out so it did not look like there was a big change and the same will be done with Social Services next year.

COVID Response/DSS Update – Fred stated the numbers are still high in the counties of Wisconsin. The Department is having workers still wear face masks in the building whether they are vaccinated or not. Staff that shares an office only has one in an office at a time the other works from home or has found another office to work this has been working well. We have not had many cases of people being exposed and other staff having to quarantine. The one case we had where someone tested positive four workers had to quarantine. Fred stated we need to make sure we have enough staff available to do the work. This is why we are being very cautious. Most of the staff has filled out the new Telecommuting Policy identifying how many days they will be working from home. Staff has adjusted well to working from home and getting their work done. Fred stated he talked with Cindy and LeaAnne and we don't have very many walk-ins. LeaAnne stated we have had more people starting to come in and drop off paperwork. Jon asked if there was an issue with this and LeaAnne stated no people who come in are wearing masks.

Methamphetamine crisis in Southwest Wisconsin: Fred stated there is a Southwest group who started pulling together as a region to have discussions as a group as to how we can respond and do some preventive work on the high usage of methamphetamine.

CLTS and Adult Services workload – Fred stated the CLTS numbers are starting to go up. Due to the Department of Health Services state budget going up there is no longer a waiting list when they apply for the CLTS program. Fred talked with Dustin, CLTS worker and Debbi Donald a past worker had 10 CLTS cases and now Dustin has 30 cases; the rule of thumb is 40 cases is a full caseload. Fred stated when he, Jeff Lockhart and Tom Slaney meet next month they are going to see if they can figure a way to lessen the case load. Adult Protective Services cases are going up, which is shared with Unified as well.

Workforce for Long Term Care Programs – future challenges and potential impact on protective services – Fred spoke with Shane Schumacher, Director for Lafayette County, and they are paying between \$22.00 and \$27.00 an hour. Fred explained Land's End you can start out at \$18.00, McDonalds, \$15.00 and Menards \$15.00 an hour. People who work at Supportive Home Care Agencies the rate are \$18.00 an hour, but this includes administrative costs, really they are being paid between \$12.00 and \$14.00 an

hour. This translates into is they are having a really hard time finding staff similar to Orchard Manor. As we are not providing these services we are getting more referrals from physicians and other places stating this person is at home and it is not safe and need to be placed somewhere and as a county you need to place this person. As Social Services looks into it the person is on Long Term Care agency programs and are having a hard time finding staff. They might be able to get the hours covered during the week, but not on the weekend. They continue to try and find employees to go in on the weekends. The alternative is they work with their guardian and tell them “they will continue to work with them, but it is unsafe to be home on the weekend”, then family members find someone to go in and check on the person on the weekend. Fred stated his projection is as Grant County ages we will have less people to provide the services and we will have more people who need the services. The lack of workers in this area is going to grow and when the plans are not safe that then falls on the county to make sure people are safe; this includes providing protective services or placements. If we cannot find people to provide the services it will lead to placement. With talking to Inlusa, Homeward Bound, Quality Care, we might want to think about pulling a committee together to address the workforce in this particular area.

2022 Targeted Safety Support Fund (TSSF) application – The Department of children and Families is offering the TSSF again. This was money the Department came up with to help counties provide prevention services for families so they do not have to remove the kids from the home. Krystle completed the application for the 2022 funds. It is not a grant but Fred would like the DSS board to approve this and then Fred will take it to the full County Board to approve under grant applications. Krystle is asking for \$75,000. This is used for the in home therapy and supervised visitations Orion provides for us. Don Splinter made a motion to approve the 2022 TSSF application. Greg Fry seconded, the motion carried.

Adult Protective Services funding increase application - Fred stated this is additional funding for elder abuse, which falls under the Adult Protective Services program. There was an increase of \$5,069 that was allocated for Grant County. Fred is asking for the DSS board approval and will take to the full county board. The money not spent by the end of the year will roll over into the new-year. Robert Scallon made a motion to approve the Adult Protective Services funding increase application. Don Splinter seconded, the motion carried.

Director’s Report – Fred stated he had the annual meeting for the Southwest Consortium. Time was spent looking at the statistics and numbers. Our agency is consistently number 1 or 2 for meeting all the requirements. The Bill 395 some of the language changed in it. It went from may to have and this means this will increase the workload. Susan Mahoney came to our All Staff meeting and did medication safety training. Also working with Susan to have training with families we are working with, trying to figure out the confidentiality. Safe and Stable Family program funding has to be used for prevention focus or high risk kids. A team met and decided to reallocate money and look at different ideas. One idea is a Peer Support Specialist. We are hoping to find parents who have gone through our programs and have been successful. Also looking at our foster parents and matching them up with a family we are working with. We also want to look at focusing on attachment and setting up trainings.

CITIZEN COMMENT- None

ADJOURMENT- At 10:30 AM, Dwight made a motion to adjourn until December 1, 2021, which was seconded by Bob Scallon. The motion carried, the meeting was adjourned