

LANGLADE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, April 10th, 2017
10:00 a.m. – Health Service Center Board Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Joe Novak, Vern Cahak, Holly Matucheski, Richard Hurlbert and Robert Benishek

ALSO PRESENT: Sheila Rine, Ron Barger, Craig Hotchkiss, Patsy Rolo, Kelly Koeppel, Tracy Chernetski and Carlene Nagel

1. H. Matucheski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Attendance as listed above.
4. Approve agenda – Motion by V. Cahak, seconded by D. Hurlbert to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
5. Minutes of the March 13th, 2017 board meeting were approved with motion by B. Benishek, seconded by J. Novak. Motion carried.
6. Public comment on agenda items, and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas - None.
7. Reviewed the Budget Summary Report and bills paid.
8. The next meeting will be Monday, May 8th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Health Service Center Board Room.
9. Correspondence and Reports:
 - a. Updates from Economic Support and Energy Assistance – Patsy introduced Kelly Koeppel. Kelly returned to DSS from Dispatch and is in the process of completing her on-line training. Patsy passed around her monthly report. Energy assistance currently completed 1269 applications. Regular energy applications end on May 15th but the program does run year round. DSS did receive extra heat and crisis funds to help avoid disconnections. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to accept the report. Motion carried.
 - b. Updates from Children and Family Services – Tracy passed around her monthly report. This has been a very busy month with a lot of referrals. There were 64 access reports received with 22 screened in for assessments and 42 screened out. 10 children removed from their homes and placed with relatives or in foster care. 24 children in need of protection or services (CHIPS) petitions already filed in the first 3 months of 2017 (was 4 last year at this time). Having a difficult time working with parents until it is court ordered, as parents refuse to cooperate with DSS staff. Currently is taking 6-9 months to get in as the court calendar is booked.
 - c. Updates from Juvenile Court – Craig reviewed his cases.

- d. Legislative Update – Ron reviewed several bills currently in the State Assembly that involve DSS. Assembly Bill 2 talks about increasing the amount of money spent for grants to counties operating treatment and diversion programs. Assembly Bill 7 expands graduate medical training in addiction, to increase the number of physicians trained in an addiction speciality. Assembly Bill 8 will provide funding for 2-3 additional opioid treatment programs in underserved and high-need areas. Assembly Bill 9 will create and administer an addiction medicine consultation program to assist participating clinicians in providing enhanced care to patients with substance addiction and to provide referral support. They have not been passed yet but are viewed favorably by the Governor.

10. Personnel Update

- a. Update on vacant positions – The ES position is currently on-hold. Received over 20 applications and they will be sorted for an eligibility list.
- b. Finance request to approve transfer of funds from Risk Reserve account to cover 2016 Alternate Care Costs – Gary had moved monies into the Risk Reserve account and now we are moving it out to cover the Alternative Care Costs for a total of \$182,259.22. Motion by D. Hurlbert, seconded by B. Benishek to allow the transfer of funds from the Risk Reserve to cover the 2016 Alternate Care Costs. Motion carried.
- c. Request to hire a full-time Social Worker as soon as possible and move request to appropriate committees for further discussion and consideration – Ron explained the reasoning behind hiring an additional social worker. Between Dan Bauknecht’s presentation on drug trends and the numbers that are continually increasing and the hours that the social workers are putting in and not wanting the social workers to get burned out, Ron is requesting the committee to hire another full-time social worker as soon as possible. Gary is not sure if he will be able to find the funding available to put this through this year yet but otherwise in 2018. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to hire a full-time social worker as soon as possible and move through to the next committee. Motion carried.
- d. Approve CIP request to purchase, with intent to replace, primary transport vehicle for CFS. Cost not to exceed \$20,000 – Ron passed around a score sheet for the DSS members. Name is on top and you need to put where you rank the vehicle replacement. Data sheet was passed around explaining the need to replace 1 of the vehicles. B. Benishek suggested possibly getting an sheriff’s vehicle, however, that won’t be feasible as the departments needs something that can transport multiple children, like a mini-van. Ron explained that \$20,000 should be able to get a decent used mini-van. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to approve the 2018 request to replace one of the DSS vehicles. Motion carried. That request will be submitted to Finance to be placed in the 2018 CIP.

11. Old Business:

- a. Panic buttons will be installed on April 12th – There will be 1 in the reception area and 1 in the social worker area. The panic buttons are wireless, therefore, if you are meeting with a client, you can take it with you.
- b. On April 3rd, Ron presented at the special county board session, along with Tracy and Rylee. There are extra copies of the handouts if anyone would like them. The committee felt Ron shared a lot of good information but felt with all the presentations, it was taking a long time and people felt rushed. They will discuss at the a future county board meeting, to limit the number of people coming in to talk, so everyone is given adequate time to present.

12. New Business:

- a. Conference/Workshop attendance – Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by V. Cahak to allow any Social Services member to attend necessary meetings with per diem and mileage.
Motion carried.

13. Referrals/Recommendations for May – AVAIL – Ron will try to get some numbers from AVAIL or see if Michelle can come and talk.

14. Motion D. Hurlbert, seconded by B. Benishek to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Sheila Rine