

## **Minutes of Langlade County Social Service Committee Meeting**

### **Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order in the board room of the Health Services Center at 2:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2015 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Richard Hurlbert, Holly Matucheski, Richard Burby, and Bob Benishek.

Member absent: Vern Cahak. Motion by Benishek to excuse Cahak. Motion second by Burby. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

Others present: Kim Van Hoof, Scott Jensema, Dave Solin, Pete Pennington, Craig Hotchkiss, Gary Olsen, Debi McGregor, Kari Lazars, Mike Klimoski, Jim Jansen, Carlene Nagel, and Liane Blahnik. Angel Zimmerman, Drew Kelly, and Robin Stowe attended part of meeting.

### **Approval of agenda.**

Motion by Burby to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion second by Matucheski. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

### **Approve minutes from previous meeting.**

Motion by Matucheski to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Motion second by Burby. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

### **Presentation on the Process for Out of Home Care Placements.**

Craig Hotchkiss showed a power point presentation for Juvenile's Court's process for out-of-home placements. Hotchkiss reported Juvenile Court follows the Juvenile Justice Code 938. Hotchkiss reported the main job function is to provide supervision and services and direct kids and families to services, for kids age 10 to 17, who have been referred for breaking the law in many types of ways. Juvenile Court Workers coordinate services between law enforcement, schools and other agencies within our county. Hotchkiss reported Juvenile Court can provide case management services for up to 10 kids. Hotchkiss reported that out-of-home placements occurs when the child has not responded to any other services, and they are not bound by least restrictive placement for the child, but try to pick most appropriate for child. Out-of-home placement options could be any one of the following: Treatment Foster Care home, Foster Care home, Group Home, Residential Treatment Centers, or Corrections. Hotchkiss reported Residential Treatment Centers are usually long-term. Placements at Corrections usually cost less than placements at Residential Treatment Centers, but Correction facilities are locked and children do not get home visits.

Scott Jensema shared a power point presentation of Social Services process for out-of-

home placements. Jensema reported that foster care rates are based on a needs assessment for each child. Jensema reported his recent training for supervising safety will help the agency to be more uniform with other agencies throughout the State. During initial assessment, workers can follow a family for up to 60 days. After 60 days, the case can be transferred to on-going case management, or can be closed. Social Services tries to place a child in the least restrictive placement until parent/s complies with conditions for return. Jensema reported this means there are no present danger or impending danger threats to the safety of the child. Out-of-home placement options for Children and Family Services include: Kinship Care, Foster Care homes, Treatment Foster Care Homes, Group Homes and Residential Treatment Centers. Children can also be placed with relatives, but recent State mandates require relatives to become licensed foster care homes. Stowe questioned if North Central Health Care offered any new programs to families with mental health and how it works handing off cases to them. Van Hoof reported the agency refers many clients to the (CCS) Comprehensive Community Services and (CST) Coordinated Service Teams who have mental health or AODA issues and the plan is to have North Central Health Care come and explain these services to this group since many times these are the children that end up in high end out-of-home placements. A high end out-of-home placement can throw off the budget and costs between \$9,000 to \$12,000 per month.

### **Presentation of Lantlade County Placement Data**

Van Hoof shared a graph showing number of children placed in out-of-home placements, by placement type. Olsen questioned how long each child was in care, as the average cost per child does not explain enough and if information could be gathered by category for each month. Van Hoof suggested bringing in a timeline showing kids in placements, length of stay, community services available during that time, and agency staffing levels, and how those layers have impacted the service delivery and the cost of providing good services to keep kids safe in the community.

Stowe reported there is substantiated abuse, neglect and delinquency issues in the community, but if all you are looking at are costs, this does not tell you much. Olsen questioned what the underlying issues are. Klimoski questioned how to break the cycle; since some of the clients were removed from their parents as children and now they have their kids removed. Olsen questioned if the \$20,000 that goes to Family Resource Center and Boys and Girls Club could be targeted to focus on programs that break the cycle. Van Hoof reported there are evidence based parenting strategies that work and we should focus on these: parenting one on one, and infusing therapy into parenting sessions that is being done with the MSW Social Worker. Van Hoof stated that parents who have underlying mental health issues cannot fully focus on their parenting abilities until they have their own needs met. Debi McGregor reported the State is looking at this question: evidence behind the services to provide parents to help to break that cycle. They are looking at some different styles of services; group based parenting classes do not work for this population, these parents need more intensive, many time one-to-one parenting case management support. Debi reported sometimes this takes months for the parents to say this is working, let's move forward with this.

**Date for next month's meeting.**

The next monthly committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, at 2:30 pm at the Boy's and Girl's Club.

The next Special Session to discuss Out of Care Home costs will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the County Board room. The committee requested the timeline of data and data from other counties.

Motion by Burby to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Matucheski. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.

Submitted by,  
Liane Blahnik  
Administrative Assistant