

## **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, August 17, 2015 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Others present: Kim Van Hoof, Robin Stowe, Dave Solin, Patsy Rolo, Craig Hotchkiss, Carlene Nagel, and Liane Blahnik. Karen Quick attended part of meeting.

### **Approve agenda.**

Motion by Cahak to approve the revised agenda. Motion second by Benishek. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Benishek to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Communications and Public Comment.**

Matucheski was asked to bring two questions forward from Supervisor Nye. With the resignation of the current Director, could North Central Health Care (NCHC) take over the authority of Social Services? Stowe reported that several years ago the three counties of Lincoln, Langlade and Marathon contracted with NCHC to provide community programs, which are mental health, drug, alcohol and these types of programs; this is their core. The Social Services Child Protective Services, Income Maintenance and Energy Assistance were left under each county. Stowe reported other counties have Human Services Department, where you have a Human Services Director, and the multi county study went far enough where Langlade County and the other two counties decided against it. Stowe reported both are mandated programs, but there are levels of services issues. Stowe reported in response to Nye's question, it is beyond NCHC core responsibilities; they are not currently programmed or commissioned to provide those services.

Matucheski reported the second question from Nye was about a newspaper article regarding treatment court for drug addicts. Stowe reported the county made a request to the Department of Corrections to help fund an OWI court which would only be for second and third offenses for OWI. It is on the desk of the new judge as the State made some changes to the program paragraphs.

### **Introduce new Economic Support Specialist – Karen Quick.**

Rolo introduced Karen Quick and reported she started the end of July. Rolo explained she is currently working on the Income Maintenance training modules. Karen explained she previously worked at NCTC in Wausau, and before that she worked for the school district as an interpreter for the deaf. The committee welcomed Karen.

**Review and approve resolution to “Authorize the Establishment of the SOAR Program provided by NEWCAP in Langlade County”.**

Van Hoof reported we were contacted from NEWCAP to start up the SOAR program. SOAR stands for SSI and SSDI outreach access and recovery. It is designed to help people with mental health or physical issues apply for SSI. This program hooks them up with a case manager to help apply for those benefits. Stowe reported they need a county board resolution approved before they can establish the program in the county. Motion by Burby to approve the resolution to authorize the establishment of SOAR Program provided by NEWCAP in Langlade County and to forward to County Board. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval to refill vacant Director’s position.**

Van Hoof reported she accepted other employment effective September 28, 2015. Stowe and Van Hoof are working on transition planning and Stowe completed a draft advertisement. The committee requested a special session to discuss transition planning and the recruitment process. Motion by Cahak to approve refilling the vacant Director’s position and forward to the Executive Committee. Motion second by Burby. Discussion: Stowe reported per State Statutes, the county needs a Social Services Director. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Review and approve agency’s “Understanding of Confidentiality”.**

Van Hoof reported this document is for employees, interns, and volunteers of the Department of Social Services and Juvenile Court. Van Hoof stated this will be given to employees on an annual basis. Motion by Matucheski to approve the agency’s Understanding of Confidentiality statement. Motion second by Burby. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Review and approve 2016 budget and Review and approve 2017 preliminary budget.**

The 2016 budget was reviewed by the Committee. Van Hoof reported funds were put towards increasing work hours up to 37.5 per week for Juvenile Court workers to be consistent with Social Work staff. Van Hoof reported the training budget was increased by \$5,000 to provide training on Trauma Informed Care based on the out-of-home care study. Van Hoof reported the amounts for service providers will stay the same as last year: \$12,500 for Family Corner Resource Center and \$10,000 for Boy’s and Girl’s Club. Nagel reported the overage on the preliminary 2017 will be wages and fringes, but Olsen will adjust tax levy. Motion by Benishek to approve the 2016 budget and the 2017 preliminary budget. Motion second by Burby. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Update from Children and Family Services.**

Van Hoof shared a handout from the Department of Children and Families on the Summary of 2015 Act 55: 2015-2017 Biennial Budget. The transfer of Juvenile Court Services to the DCF occurs on January 1, 2016. There are changes with Independent Living funding coming down as those will become regionalized. Van Hoof reported the agency is in the process of advertising for the vacant Social Work position. Plans are to have this refilled in early September.

**Update from Juvenile Court.**

Hotchkiss provided an update on Juvenile Court placements. Motion by Burby to approve Juvenile Court report. Motion second by Cahak. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Review the Alternative Care Report and Review and approve the Budget Summary Report.**

The Alternative Care Report and budget summary were reviewed by the Committee. Van Hoof reported the 2015 budget is projected to be over budget and this is specific to Youth Aids placements by \$92,000. Motion by Benishek to approve the budget summary. Motion second by Cahak. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Review payment of bills.**

The committee reviewed bills paid in July.

**Review Monthly Report for Compensatory Time.**

The committee reviewed the monthly report for compensatory time.

**Review and approve the Training Report.**

The committee reviewed the revised training report. Motion by Benishek to approve the revised training report. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Director's Report**

Van Hoof reported the out-of-home study recommendations were taken to the Executive Committee, and \$5,000 was put in the budget for Trauma Informed Care training. Other recommendations will need to be prioritized and taken forward for funding in the future. Van Hoof was asked by the Executive Committee about the ideal number of staff. Looking at all Social Services staff and what they need to accomplish, we have to look at time they have and resources they have been given. Van Hoof believes this affects staff retention and not having family needs met. Without staff to provide that service or not having the resources allocated in the community to provide the service we see these families needing additional supports over time or utilizing the high cost out-of-home placements. Families could benefit from earlier services. Prevention services do have an impact, but there are costs associated in providing those services; and you will not see an immediate return on investment, but see long term results.

Van Hoof reported the MSW (Masters Social Work) position is beginning to bill with NCHC for Comprehensive Community Services program, and we will be getting reimbursement back through this contract. This will be something to keep an eye on and figure out how we can best utilize this position to support the kids and families remaining in the community who have co-occurring mental health or AODA issues.

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

The next monthly committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, at 2:30 pm in the Health Service Center board room. A special session was set for Friday, August 21 at 8:00 am.

Motion by Burby to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Submitted by,  
Liane Blahnik, Administrative Assistant