

LANGLADE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, February 13th, 2017
10:00 a.m. – Health Service Center Board Room

MINUTES

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

EXCUSED: Richard Hurlbert

ALSO PRESENT: Sheila Rine, Ron Barger, Craig Hotchkiss, Patsy Rolo, Pete Pennington

1. H. Matucheski called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Attendance as listed above. Motion by V. Cahak, seconded by B. Benishek to excuse R. Hurlbert. Motion carried.
4. Approve agenda – Motion by V. Cahak, seconded by B. Benishek to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
5. Minutes of the January 9th, 2017 board meeting were approved with motion by B. Benishek, seconded by V. Cahak. 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, March 13th, 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 passed around an update on Economic Support. Due to being short staffed, Patsy will be moving 518 cases to other counties within the consortia. We have 2 full-time staff on the call center. Kelly Koeppel will be transferring back to the department on March 13th but will need to attend new worker training. Energy has processed 1042 cases so far, whereas last year a total of 1418 were done by the end of the season. 5 repairs and 14 replacements so far. We received word at the energy conference that we will be receiving more crisis funding soon. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by J. Novak to approve the report. Motion carried.
 - b. Updates from Children and Family Services – Ron passed around Tracy's report. As of last week, 22 screened in assessments and 32 screened out. Continued concerns with substance abuse and unsafe living conditions. There was a big drug bust over the weekend that involved the social workers removing 4 children, from 4th grade down to a baby. After discussion, Ron will see if Dan Bauknecht will be available to come and talk at the next DSS mtg.

- c. Updates from Juvenile Court – Craig passed around his report. Cases were reviewed. B. Benishek stated that the number of children in care concerns him. There were 9 cases in Langlade County and we are a small county. Craig brought in the electronic monitoring device for everyone to see. Craig explained that he writes for a yearly grant that covers the cost for this, so there is no charge to the county.
- d. Legislative Update – Ron stated the Governor put out his budget but it is preliminary until it is voted on. Some of the budget included money for foster and futures and more trauma informed care trainings being offered. In home safety services with more money to keep kids in the homes. Foster care rate increase. Ron has a list, 15 pages long if anyone is interested but note that this is the proposed budget and there may still be changes.

10. Personnel Update

- a. Update on vacant positions – Ron mentioned that Kelly Koeppel will be returning on March 13th. She had previously worked for ES for over 20 years and posted back when the position was posted internally.
- b. Request to fill vacant ES position – Linda Bleyl gave her notice and last Friday was her last day. Ron would like to refill the ES position. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by H. Matucheski to refill the ES position and move forward to Personnel committee. Motion carried.

11. At approximately 10:30 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1)(c)(f), Wis. Stats, to consider personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons and consideration of specific problems. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by V. Cahak to move into closed session at 10:40 a.m.. By roll call vote, Cahak, aye; Benishek, aye; Novak, aye; Matucheski, aye; Pennington, aye. The committee commenced to closed session at 10:40 a.m.

12. At approximately 10:45 a.m., return to open session with possible action taken on any matters discussed in closed session. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by V. Cahak to return to open session. All ayes. Motion carried. The committee returned to open session at 10:55 a.m.

13. Old Business:

- a. B. Benishek asked how the back up window was working out and Ron and staff felt it was working out very well.

14. New Business:

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

15. Referrals/Recommendations for March – Ron will check with Dan Bauknecht to see if he can attend the next meeting.

16. Motion J. Novak, seconded by V. Cahak to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Sheila Rine