

Minutes of Lenglade 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, February 23, 2015 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Members absent: Holly Matucheski.

Others present: Kim Van Hoof, Craig Hotchkiss, Scott Jensema, Robin Stowe, David Solin, Pete Pennington, and Liane Blahnik. Patsy Rolo, Carlene Nagel and Gary Olsen attended part of meeting.

Discuss resolution from Executive Committee to study options to address out of home placement costs for both Juvenile Court and Children and Family Services programs.

Stowe explained the Executive Committee would like one committee to study options to address the costs for out-of-home placements and report their findings back to the Executive Committee by August 1, 2015. Stowe stated that whatever the resources are, when we are budgeting for out-of-home placements, are we putting resources to their highest and best use. Someone needs to look at this, if there are more things that can be done to keep families intact; or if a child is removed, are there other services that can be put into place to get the child transitioned back to the home more quickly and smoothly. Benishek asked for an outline for this proposed study. Stowe reported Van Hoof and he plan to meet with service providers to help get this information and give recommendations back to the committee. Van Hoof asked the committee where they would like to start. Burby requested they get budgetary information in line-item form. Burby requested information on what other agencies have to offer currently and what they can provide in the future, if there are other alternatives or more cost effective services, what supportive agencies are out there, and what are the best options for the child using the dollars we have budgeted. Burby asked if the two agencies need to change their format on how they do things, to do things within the budget. Hurlbert questioned if there were any grants available to help out. Van Hoof reported many grants have a sustainability piece attached and this would require a community decision by policy makers. When kids are involved in effective early-intervention programs which have them remain intact with their families; it may be more effective to invest in those programs and sustain a grant for prevention services long-term so the end results are that the agencies would see a reduction in their out-of-home care placement costs.

Discuss with possible action creations of an LTE part-time clerical employment position.

Rolo explained the need for this part-time clerical position as the agency needs to have lobby services for a minimum of 35 hours per week per the State's Department of Health Services. Rolo explained the agency was able to utilize workers from the Experience Works Program, but they currently do not have any one to place. Rolo reported that an LTE from April to December for 2015 could work 546 hours and cost would be \$5,303 with fringes. In 2016 for 728 hours, cost would be \$7,464 with fringes. The funding for 2015 is in the budget, and will be looked at for 2016 during the budget process. Motion by Burby to approve the creation of an LTE part-time clerical employment position and to forward to Personnel and Executive Committees and County Board. Discussion: The committee requested financial data for this position. Motion second by Benishek. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

Director's Report.

Van Hoof shared a copy of the Governor's recommendation on provisions related to counties, tribes and local agencies relating to the transfer of Youth Aids and responsibility for community-based juvenile justice services from the Department of Corrections (DOC) to Department of Children and Families (DCF) beginning January 1, 2016.

Benishek explained that discussion regarding office rent revenues would be discussed at the March 2, 2015 Public Property meeting. Olsen explained that currently there is not a policy regarding rent. Revenue from rent goes to the Maintenance Department.

Hotchkiss and Van Hoof clarified what will be brought to the next meeting including a timeline for presentations by community partners, budget information from 2011-2014 for Social Service Out of Home Care costs, Juvenile Court Out of Home Care costs and Juvenile Housing costs. Jensema questioned when Title IV-E funding ended. Stowe and Olsen recommended looking at trends and comparative data. Van Hoof explained the need to identify root causes and understanding the reason why children/youth need out of home care placements. Hurlbert and Burby expressed the need to understand alternatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.

Submitted by,
Liane Blahnik
Administrative Assistant