

Minutes of Lantlade County Social Service Committee Meeting

Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at the Health Service Center in the board room at 1:30 p.m. on Monday June 11, 2012 by Richard Hurlbert.

Members present: Richard Hurlbert, Robert Benishek, Holly Matucheski, Vern Cahak, and Pat McKinney-Rice.

Others present: Kim Van Hoof, Patsy Rolo, Carlene Nagel, and Liane Blahnik.

Approval of agenda.

Motion by Benishek to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion second by McKinney-Rice. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approve minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion by Cahak to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as mailed. Motion second by McKinney-Rice. All ayes. Motion carried.

Communications and Public Comment.

Van Hoof reported that Bob Anderson, Foster Care Coordinator recently published an article in the Antigo Daily Journal for Foster Care month.

Van Hoof reported the agency will be working on a few cases with the State. The State comes in when a case meets a certain level of incident or is of a severe degree. The State may come back in and provide technical assistance if needed after this review.

Director's Report.

Van Hoof reported that Wendy Bunster, an Experienced Works worker started in the agency today. Wendy previously worked as an aid for the school district. Kim reported that she also speaks Spanish, which will help the agency. Next month, Sherry Woyak will start in the Children and Family Services social work position. Both will come to a future meeting for introductions.

Van Hoof reported that she continues to look at staffing for the Energy Program for the 2012-13 heating season. In the past, Lil Tower and Marty Laub were here, and currently Liane Blahnik and Tara Hoffman will be processing all the energy assistance applications with their other job duties. Rolo reported she is concerned as Hoffman also sees people who walk into the agency to apply for economic support benefits and Blahnik will be crossed trained on this job duty. Staffing for the energy program will be looked at during the upcoming budget process.

Van Hoof reported the agency is working daily on struggles with the IM Central Consortium. Van Hoof reported that she is completing the LEAN training, and the first project will be Economic Support scanning. We just started to look at the

current scan process and will move towards a scan first process with a better defined process. Van Hoof reported that LEAN is a continuous Quality Improvement model, with staff input, and having staff input adds value to the outcome and ownership of the process that will be used to scan documents.

Van Hoof shared information on the number of referrals the agency received. This information presented included the number of referrals based on the type of referral.

Van Hoof shared the draft format of the Organizational Effectiveness project that the Children and Family Services Unit is working on with the State of Wisconsin. This includes information from the sessions attended by the agency workers from that unit. This has been helpful for this team as they discussed things they do every day and how they fit into the agency's mission and vision and how they fit in the Child Welfare model services areas.

Motion to approve the director's report by Benishek. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Lutheran Social Services In-Home Team Updates.

Van Hoof updated the committee and reported that the Family Advocate worker, Kala Thompson, left her position the end of May to take a job with North Central Health Care in Wausau and they hired Julie Morris, who will be starting shortly. The in-home team is currently serving 12 families, (28 children and 19 adults). To date they have 12 children placed in parental homes, 9 children in out-of-home placements, two of which are in treatment foster care, and 7 children live with a relative. Relatives are required to do foster care training and certification which the county pays for, and they are required to do a small amount of pre-placement training. Van Hoof reported that the in-home team has been a very useful tool as they help facilitate discussions with parents about permanency for children whose parents are really unable to care for and parent their children. This is a big budget item that will need to be looked at in July. Van Hoof stated she believes the children that we are currently serving through this program, would not be in-home without this team.

Discussion on Permanency Planning Review Panel.

Van Hoof shared information of the administrative reviewer's role and asked if anyone on the committee would be interested in becoming a Permanency Plan member. Van Hoof will also be recruiting community members as there needs to be members who are not affiliated with the agency or county. The State will help us provide a training which will be scheduled early this fall. Hurlbert questioned what is meant by permanency. Van Hoof reported the State classifies permanency for a child as one of the following: reunification with a parent, placement and guardianship with a relative, or termination of parental rights with adoption. Committee members can let Van Hoof know if they are interested in serving on this panel.

Review and authorize payment of bills and review the Budget Summary Report, Juvenile Alternative Care Summary Report and approve Monthly Reports for Compensatory Time and Training.

The committee reviewed the monthly bills. The committee reviewed the budget summary report, the juvenile alternate care summary and budget report, and the compensatory time reports as no training report was submitted this month. Nagel reported that she is watching the foster care budget, as this is part of the purchased services line. Nagel reported the Alternative Care Risk Reserve account balance is \$373,000. Some of this will be used this year to pay for the in-home team and some will be used to cover Alternative Care expenses that go over the budgeted amount. Motion by Benishek to authorize payment of the bills and approve the Budget Summary report, the Alternate Care Budget Summary, and compensatory time report. Motion second by McKinney-Rice. All ayes. Motion carried.

WHEAP (Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program) Updates.

Rolo reported the agency processed applications for 1,581 households for the 2011-2012 heating season. The agency continues to receive calls for crisis assistance for people who have disconnection notices. Rolo reported that \$820,895 was paid to local vendors who provide heat and electricity for the 1,517 households that received energy assistance benefits. Rolo reported the program completed 13 unit repairs and did 10 replacements during the 2011-2012 heating season.

Adjourn.

Motion by Benishek to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Motion second by McKinney-Rice. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by,
Liane Blahnik, Administrative Assistant