

Minutes of Langlade County Social Service Committee Meeting

Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order in the Law Library at the Courthouse at 10:30 am on Monday, June 2, 2014 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

Approval of agenda.

Motion by Cahak to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion second by Burby. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approve minutes from previous meetings.

Motion by Cahak to approve the minutes as mailed. Motion second by Burby. All ayes. Motion carried.

Communications and Public Comment.

None.

Discuss and approve application on the Brighter Futures Grant.

Van Hoof shared information about the Request for Proposals from Wisconsin Department of Children and Families through the Office of Youth Services, to select agencies to carry out the Brighter Futures Initiative Program in areas of the state beginning January 1, 2015. This grant will maximize prevention resources and will serve the target population ages between 12 and 21, in or at risk of entering the child welfare system. DCF intends to award up to ten awards, and will target those who will use evidence based programming. Motion by Benishek to apply for the Brighter Futures Grant and to forward Finance Committee. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Updates on the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program.

Rolo reported that 1,681 households applied for energy assistance during this heat season, which is up 87 households from last year. The average heat benefit was \$339, down a little from last year's average benefit of \$396. The Public Benefit which helps people cover electrical costs associated with heating their home was \$173 which remained close to last year's amount of \$177. Rolo reported the total heating unit activity paid was 46 this year, compared to 28 last year. Nine of those were for assessments only. Rolo reported the furnace program runs year round. Rolo reported that crisis assistance was paid to 322 households, and was up from the previous year's 230 households that received a crisis benefit. The regular heat season ended on May 15, but applications can still be taken for crisis assistance and for people requesting weatherization services.

Review Job Description for MSW (Master Level Social Worker).

Van Hoof shared a copy of the draft job description for the MSW. Van Hoof wants this position to be a bridge for treatment collaboration and hopes that it will reduce out-of-home care costs.

Review payment of bills.

The Committee reviewed the bills paid in May 2014.

Review and approve the 2014 Budget Summary Report.

The Committee reviewed the 2014 budget summary report. Nagel reported the Alternative Care budget will be expended by the end of June. Motion by Benishek to approve the budget summary report. Motion second by Burby. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review the Alternative Care Summary Report.

The Committee reviewed the Alternative Care Summary report.

Review Monthly Report for Compensatory Time.

The Committee reviewed the monthly report for compensatory time.

Review and approve the Training Report.

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

Director's Report.

Van Hoof reported that at July's meeting the Boys and Girls Club and Children Hospital Community Services will be at the meeting to present their quarterly reports and updates. Van Hoof reported the Family Resource Center is still looking for a new site.

Van Hoof reported the initial meeting for the Child Welfare Citizen Panel was held Thursday, May 29. The meeting had good attendance and representation. The next meeting will be in August. Van Hoof will announce the date and time at the next committee meeting.

Van Hoof shared information that was published in the Wausau Daily Herald about Wisconsin's aging population and the possible effects it will have on Wisconsin's economy.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2014 at 10:30 am. Meeting will be held in the Health Service Center board room. Motion by Benishek to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 am. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carries.

Submitted by
Liane Blahnik
Administrative Assistant