

Minutes of Langle County Social Service Committee

Call the meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order in the board room of the Health Services Center at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 14, 2016 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Others present: Ron Barger, Patsy Rolo, Scott Jensema, Carlene Nagel, Gary Olsen, Robin Stowe, Janelle Hintz, and Sheila Rine.

Approve agenda.

Motion by B. Benishek to approve the agenda. Motion second by V. Cahak. Motion carried.

Approve minutes from previous meetings.

Motion by V. Cahak to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion second by B. Benishek. Motion carried.

Public Comment on agenda items, and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas.

None

Updates from Economic Support and Energy Assistance.

P. Rolo reported that Kelly Koepfel's last day in the office will be March 18th. They received 26 applications for the Economic Support position and interviews were held last week for 7 candidates. Lisa Wiltse was hired and her first day will be April 11th.

P. Rolo provided an update on the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program. Handout was passed around. 1219 households applied for energy assistance. L. Blahnik was the back-up to T. Hoffman but now that L. Blahnik has left the agency, P. Rolo has been helping and T. Hoffman has picked up all of L. Blahnik's energy appointments. The first opening for a new app is April 27th and applications are available through May 15th. Motion by B. Benishek to approve the energy report. Motion second by H. Matucheski. Motion carried.

Updates from Juvenile Court: Discuss Juvenile budget overages and consider alternatives; Approve transfer from the Risk Reserve to cover the over budgeted amount in Juvenile placements.

S. Jensema shared a handout from C. Hotchkiss on out of home placements and costs associated with those placements. S. Jensema mentioned that one client should be coming home next week with another one coming home sometime the end of March-beginning of

April, which should make this report \$14,000-16,000 less, if no one else is placed. They are also working with the Milwaukee County DSS on another situation involving sexual exploitation.

G. Olsen passed around information on Youth Aids for 2015 and 2016. Discussion followed. Discussion on alternative placements if there is no money in the budget. Currently, 1 person makes the recommendation. R. Barger is suggesting that C. Hotchkiss, S. Jensema and R. Barger should review each case as a team and then send the recommendation for placements to the Judge.

R. Stowe indicated that out of home placement is a significant part of the DSS budget. Cost is not the first consideration in the intake workers minds, when removing a child. Need to review everything carefully and maybe look at hiring another intensive in-home worker if that means keeping the child in the home.

R. Stowe, R. Barger and the Judge all met several weeks ago. The Judge would like to see what it would look like if we changed supervision and what it would look like with the team version. No matter what decision this committee makes, the full county board has the final say regarding organization of Juvenile Justice.

R. Burby made a motion to take the out of home placement overage out of the general fund, per the resolution that will be presented at the county board tomorrow and leave the Risk Reserve funds in the DSS budget. Motion second by B. Benishek. Motion carried.

R. Burby made a motion to move Juvenile Justice under supervision of DSS. Motion second by B. Benishek. Motion carried.

Updates from Children and Family Services.

S. Jensema reported they are at full staff, however, Liz Hinds gave her resignation letter and her last day will be April 29th. She will be officially retiring. R. Burby made a motion to start the hiring process to refill this position. Motion second by H. Matucheski. Motion carried.

S. Jensema reported that January's report showed the Masters Social Worker was able to bill just under 8 hours at \$125/hr for in-home services.

S. Jensema gave a presentation on painting murals in the hallway of the social workers. He would like the art students to do this and make it look like an aquarium. S. Jensema is waiting to hear back from the Principal at the high school. There is \$5000 allocated from the Citizens Review Panel budget. S. Jensema showed how Waupaca had their hallway done.

Discuss and approve reorganization plan that addresses clerical and administrative needs for Public Health and Department of Social Services.

R. Barger gave a PowerPoint showing 3 reorganization options due to the resignation of L. Blahnik. The first option would eliminate the Executive Assistant on the matrix under DSS and create an Office Manager position for both Health and DSS. Eliminate the Health Tech position

in Health and promote within to fill the Office Manager position. Reviewed the benefits of going with this plan. This option would also address the clerical needs of both departments. This option presents no fiscal impact as proposed. Clerical would all be cross-trained between the two departments.

Option 2 would be to create a new position and fill with funds from existing vacant position. Not a shared position and doesn't solve the clerical needs but does save some money.

R. Burby made a motion to go with Option 1 as this is the best fit and provides the best service. Motion second by B. Benishek. Motion carried. This will be forwarded to Personnel and Executive committees, and then county board. This will ultimately be creating 3 positions. A shared Office Manager; Clerical (FT) and in 2017, moving the .8 clerical to FT.

Review the Budget Summary Report; Review payment of bills; Review Monthly Report for Compensatory Time; Review and approve the Training Report.

R. Burby made a motion to approve the Budget Summary report; payment of bills; monthly report for compensatory time and training report. Motion second by B. Benishek. Motion carried.

Legislative Update.

R. Stowe mentioned that he reached out to legal counsel at the state in regards to moving Juvenile from Corrections to Children, Health and Family Services. Our current system is still a viable option for our county but there may be more reporting to the state.

Director's Report.

R. Barger shared that he was invited to present at the Northern Regional meeting on how hoarding can impact child welfare. This presentation is set for June, 2016.

Date for next month's meeting.

The next monthly committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 11th, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the Health Service Center Board Room.

Motion by V. Cahak to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by R. Burby. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Submitted by:
Sheila Rine