

## **Minutes of Langlade County Social Service Committee Meeting**

### **Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order at the Boy's and Girl's Club of Langlade County at 2:00 pm on Monday, May 11, 2015 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Richard Hurlbert, Vern Cahak, Holly Matucheski, and Bob Benishek. Richard Burby arrived at 2:35pm.

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

### **Approval of agenda.**

Motion by Benishek to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion second by Cahak. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

### **Approve minutes from previous meeting.**

Motion by Cahak to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Motion second by Matucheski. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

### **Communications and Public Comment.**

Van Hoof reported May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Langlade County currently has 13 licensed Foster Care Homes, but the county is required to license court ordered Kinship homes within four months, which Tammy Schreiber is working on. Van Hoof reported the agency is currently looking for more foster care providers. Persons interested in becoming foster care providers, should contact the agency.

### **Discuss and approve purchase of 2 I-Pads for Energy Specialists.**

Van Hoof reported there are funds in the Energy Budget to purchase two I-Pads for the Energy Specialists, since many times they get calls after normal business hours for "no heat" emergencies. Rolo reported the workers need to access the Energy Assistance System to see if the person has applied for energy assistance in order to help them with the crisis call. Motion by Benishek to approve the purchase of 2 I-Pads with funds from the Energy Assistance budget. Motion second by Matucheski. Discussion: Van Hoof reported that the two energy assistance workers are hourly employees and all hours worked to cover this job duty, has been reported as work hours. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Discuss with possible action refilling vacant Economic Support Specialist position.**

Rolo reported she received a letter of resignation from Thiago Souza. Van Hoof reported that when the permanent position was approved in February by the County Board after Ruth Tveten's retirement, Thiago received this position and is considered to be on probation. Since this is a probationary employee, it needs oversight committee approval. Van Hoof reported if we have an internal applicant, who would be offered this position, we would not want them to take a cut in pay; and would offer them the position at a rate of pay in the compensation matrix that would be equivalent or slightly above their current pay rate. Motion

by Benishek to proceed to advertise and refill the Economic Support vacancy, and allow any internal applicant to start in the compensation matrix at a rate of pay which would be equal or slightly above their current rate of pay, so they would not take a cut in pay. Motion second by Burby. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Update on Economic Support Food Share Program.**

Rolo reported that government workers (Economic Support Specialist) at County Social Service agencies determine eligibility for Food Share benefits and are responsible for issuing benefits. Eligibility and the allotment is determined based on household size, income, and expenses such as shelter and utility costs. Currently Langlade County has 1,949 Food Share cases, which 3,716 individuals who are receiving Food Share. Food Share Wisconsin helps individuals and families who have little money to buy the food they need for good health. This is intended as a supplement, and not intended to pay for all of their food costs. Food Share benefits are used to purchase food at grocery stores that participate in Food Share Wisconsin. Rolo shared the eligibility overview, as this shows the “big picture” of determining Food Share eligibility. Rolo reported that 14.4% of the 5.7 million people in Wisconsin receive Food Share. Rolo reported Food Share cases are reviewed every six months. Rolo reported the agency also receives fraud referrals. If we suspect fraud, we will make a referral to O’Brien and Associates, the contracted fraud investigation agency.

Hurlbert asked if all employees received a copy of the “Code of Conduct” for Langlade County. Hurlbert reported a copy was issued to all County Board members. Van Hoof reported they did.

**Update from Children and Family Services.**

Van Hoof reported that she and Scott Jensema have meetings set up monthly with North Central Health Care (NCHC), and currently are working with Erica Huffman, Director of Community Service, to evaluate the possibility of Angie Fischer providing some billed services through NCHC. One of the requirements of this process is to find families that would qualify for comprehensive community services and could be served under the NCHC umbrella.

Van Hoof reported the Child Welfare Citizen Review Panel meeting schedule has been set for the next 3 months. At the last meeting, Paula Brown from the State came to facilitate discussion, as the panel has been meeting for one year. Last meeting's discussion included evaluating how far we had come and what additional information we could provide to the panel. Van Hoof handed out some information on the Trauma Informed Care in Human Services, which is a project being rolled out at the State level. This is a way of doing business which is a shift in thinking. Van Hoof will continue to bring information to the committee on Trauma Informed Care as it is rolled out from the State.

Jensema reported that all Children and Family Service staff will be attending the one-day safety training on Present Danger and Protective Planning. Information provided at this training will be similar to the 9 week training Supervising Safety he attended.

**Update from Juvenile Court and Review Alternative Care Report.**

Craig Hotchkiss reported one child has moved from shelter to a treatment foster care home. She was in shelter since March 17. Hotchkiss reported it is very difficult to find a placement in Wisconsin for a juvenile, teen aged girl. Hotchkiss reported he has one placement that will

end on June 9 after graduation; a young man at Rawhide in their About Face Program, a boot camp type program and he is slated to be discharged in July; and a young man at Northwest Passage, which is a residential treatment facility. Plans are to transition him home through a group home in the Hayward area.

Jensema reported one county foster care home closed and two children will be in a respite placement until the end of the school year, and once the school year ends, they will be transitioned to an adoptive foster care home.

**Discuss with possible action agency CIP (Capital Improvement Plan).**

Van Hoof reported the agency does not have any items for the CIP in 2016. The agency van has 114,000 miles on it and the Durango from the Sheriff's Department has about 175,000 miles. Van Hoof is proposing to put a new van in the 2017 CIP. Motion by Benishek to accept the Capital Improvement Plan and place it on file. Motion second by Cahak. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Discuss with possible action plan for Foster Care Coordinator Position.**

Van Hoof shared a proposal to contract with Taylor County for a foster care coordinator starting January 1, 2016. We had \$22,000 but needed to find additional funds in the 2016 budget. Van Hoof reported Nagel found funds in the 2016 budget, so we will let Taylor County know we plan to pay 40% of the Foster Care Coordinators cost's and Tammy Schreiber will work 16 hours a week in Langlade County. Motion by Matucheski to build funds in the 2016 budget and to contract for a Foster Care Coordinator with Taylor County for sixteen hours per week starting January 1, 2016. Motion second by Cahak. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Discuss with possible action need for funding Parent Capacity Evaluations.**

Van Hoof reported we have learned through the process when families have children removed, that there are some underlying concerns that we need to address and in the Standards it speaks to the county providing services to that family, that are the most appropriate for the needs of that particular family. This would be a process for us to assess and have a trained assessor facilitate this over a month or two. The evaluation would be done within the first six months so the exact recommendations from the assessment could be used in case planning during the duration of fifteen months. Van Hoof reported State Statute states the need of an expert witness during a TPR (Termination of Parental Rights) to testify that the county knew what the limitations and what the needs of the child and family were, what services were offered to the family and for various reasons the family did not follow through on the expectations. The assessor could be the expert witness at the TPR trial. Children and Family Services Social Workers cannot testify as an expert witness; they testify to all the efforts that were put forth throughout the duration of that fifteen month period. Unless there are extending circumstances were you have medical doctors or other providers involved in a case, you do not have the expert witness to provide the documentation from day one. Van Hoof reported they are costly and cost about \$5,000 per evaluation. The agency has budget funding to start out with one evaluation. Other counties have found that spending money on the evaluation up front decreases the length of time child spends in an out-of-home placement. The child moves towards adoption sooner or the child gets reunified with appropriate family supports. Van Hoof reported after the evaluation done, we will identify process we are going to take base on information provided in the evaluation and for 2016 budget prioritize contract funding.

**Review and approve the Budget Summary Report.**

The committee reviewed the budget summary report.

**Review payment of the bills.**

The committee reviewed the bills paid in April.

**Review Monthly Report for Compensatory Time.**

The committee reviewed the monthly report for compensatory time.

**Review and Approve the Training Report.**

The committee reviewed a revised training report. Motion by Benishek to approve budget summary and trainings are allowed. Motion second by Matucheski. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Director's Report.**

Van Hoof reported that Louise Anderson, Secretary from the Department of Children and Family Services, will be meeting with Children and Family Services and Juvenile Justice Staffs on June 4.

Van Hoof reported she will be attending the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) conference on Wednesday and Friday in Stevens Point. There will be some updates on the possible merger of DOC (Department of Corrections) with DCF (Department of Children and Family).

Van Hoof reported that Kari Lazars and she will be attending the Child Welfare Citizen Review Panel National Conference in Portland Oregon, Sunday evening through next Wednesday. They will bring information back to implement more positives things on Children and Family Services in our community.

**Tour Boy's and Girl's Club of Langlade County.**

Angel Zimmerman shared information about participation at the Boy's and Girl's Club of Langlade County. Angel thanked the committee for funding provided to the organization and she hopes it is helping keep kids active and out of program care that is more costly. The club annually serves more than 1952 young people. Angel reported that in 2014 they had 528 registered members which was a 35% increase from 2013. Angel reported the teen population in 2013 was at 3% and has increased to 20% in 2014. A copy of her handout is attached to the minutes. Angel provided the committee a tour of the facility.

**Date for next month's meeting.**

The next monthly committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, at 2:30 pm in the board room.

The next Special Session to discuss Out of Care Home costs will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the County Board room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Submitted by,  
Liane Blahnik, Administrative Assistant



# AT A GLANCE

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LANGLADE COUNTY ANNUALLY SERVES MORE THAN 1952 YOUNG PEOPLE**, THROUGH MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AT TWO DIFFERENT CLUB SITES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

- Antigo Clubhouse is community-based and building-centered.
- White Lake Afterschool Site is school-based.
- We provide a safe, affordable place for youth during the out-of-school time (after school and summer).
- Our Club is led by paid, trained youth development professionals.

## **Help Kids Stay in School and Improve Their Academic Success**

Each year, 1 in 5 high school students fails to graduate on time\*. Our most utilized program is Power Hour, which provides homework help and tutoring. All year long our youth participate in Stride Academy a academic enrichment program that helps prevent summer learning loss that contributes to the alarming achievement gap between low- and high-income youth.

- Currently have two AmeriCorps Workers who go to local schools to assist with tutoring and recess.
- Academic & Enrichment Instructor communicates with teaches to help our Club members with school work.

## **Help Kids Graduate from High School, Prepared for a Great Future**

Ensuring that every Club member graduates from high school on time with a solid plan for their future is of the highest priority for BGCLC. A variety of programs support this effort:

- Power Hour
- Stride Academy
- Jr. Staff Program
- CareerLaunch®, which introduces young people to the world of work

## **Help Kids Lead Healthy Lifestyles and Avoid Risky Behaviors**

Triple Play: A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul is a holistic approach to educating youth about nutrition, fitness and forming healthy relationships. Programs like SMART Girls and Passport to Manhood help kids build self-esteem, treat others with respect, and make good choices.

## **Help Kids Develop a Strong Character**

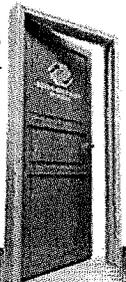
Our Youth of the Year initiative promotes and recognizes young people who have overcome tremendous obstacles, and excelled in academic performance and community service. In 2013, BGCA launched the Million Members, Million Hours of Service initiative to ensure every Club member experiences the benefits of volunteer service.

## **Help Kids Achieve Positive Outcomes**

Members who attend the Club two or more times a week skip fewer days of school, feel more connected to school and have greater post-secondary aspirations. High school-age Club members report higher levels of abstention from high-risk behaviors, such as smoking, drinking alcohol and marijuana use, than do their non-Club counterparts.

## **Boys & Girls Clubs Save Lives**

In a Harris Interactive survey, 57% of Boys & Girls Club alumni said the Club "saved my life."



**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



# BY THE NUMBERS

## 2014 SNAPSHOT

### MORE THAN 2000 YOUTH SERVED

- 528 registered members a 35% increase from 2013
- 1952 youth served through community outreach

### MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Gender:

- 55% male
- 45% female

#### Ages:

- 1% 5 and under
- 39% 6-9
- 40% 10-12
- 20% 13-15
- 3% 16 and older

#### Ethnicity:

- 86% White
- 5% Two or more races
- 2% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 3% Hispanic or Latino
- 2% Black or African-American
- 1% Asian
- 1% Unknown

#### Socio-Economic Status:

- 56% of Club members qualify for free or reduced price school lunches
- 35% of Club members come from single parent households

### AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

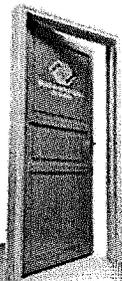
- 75 during the School year an increase of 9% from 2013
- 105 during the Summer an increase of 54% from 2013
- Overall Average of School & Summer was 90 youth a day an increase of 32%

### CLUB MEMBERS REGISTERED FOR .....

- 31% Less than one year
- 14% 1-2 years
- 55% more than 2 years. ✓

### 67 ADULT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- 14 adult professional staff
- 48 program volunteers
- 9 board members



**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**