

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

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

The meeting was called to order in the County Board Room of the Safety Building Center at 1:00 pm on Monday, May 26, 2015 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Member absent: Holly Matucheski.

Others present: Kim Van Hoof, Scott Jensema, Dave Solin, Pete Pennington, Craig Hotchkiss, Gary Olsen, Robin Stowe, Debi McGregor, Jim Jansen, Carlene Nagel, Steve Dunn, and Liane Blahnik.

### **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 May 11, 2015 meeting.**

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

### **Review Lantlade County data.**

Scott Jensema shared out-of-home placement data for Social Services from 2010 to 2014. The trend shows an increase due to AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) issues, going from 63% in 2010 up to 79% in 2014. Van Hoof reported that representatives from North Central Health Care (NCHC) will be at June's meeting, where we can discuss what services are available, what works and what doesn't work. Benishek questioned if this report shows just new placements. Jensema reported that not all are new placements every year; some are children who have been in an out-of-home placement for a long time. Benishek stated that there is probably no control for out-of-home placements when parents have AODA issues. Van Hoof stated that one thing that comes out with Trauma Informed Care is the ACE's study (Adverse Childhood Effects) on children. One important factor is that when people repeatedly have adverse effects in their younger years, it can dramatically change their brain functioning and development. Van Hoof reported the parents in the case scenario shared by Jensema had to relearn, how to parent their children, how to get a job, how to develop a budget, and how to find housing. The system will not allow housing when a person has past criminal charges, and finding housing is a basic need and a requirement to have children returned. Often this is a barrier to getting children returned timely among other factors.

Craig Hotchkiss share out-of-home placement data for Juvenile Court. Since 2010

Juvenile Court had 14 total placements during the 5-year timeframe; 10 placed in a residential treatment facility, one in corrections, and 3 in treatment foster care homes. Reasons for Juvenile Court out-of-home placements include: delinquent acts like burglary, theft, sexual assault, drug abuse, physical abuse, disorderly conduct, stealing cars, criminal damage, and run-away or uncontrollable behaviors. There have been a few cases where there has been a county transfer of venue. Hotchkiss reported he also uses shelter and secure detention at Marathon County while waiting for a placement to open up. Hotchkiss reported for court placements the past 18 years, he tries to place the kid in the most appropriate level of care for their out-of-home placement; he is not bound to look at the least restrictive placement for the child. Hotchkiss shared a case scenario with the committee. Services provided to the family include a psychological evaluation for mom, and a 30-day evaluation for child at Eau Claire Academy. The child is placed with family friends who are in the process of become licensed foster care providers. Plan for the child with some mental health and AODA issues is to place at Libertas Treatment Center in Green Bay for their 21-day program. Their suggestion will be to place the child in intensive out-patient upon release, which is a service not available in Antigo or Langlade County.

Van Hoof reported that we need to find the balance between how much we are spending on back end services like out-of-home placements after we have attempted to offer supportive services to the families and they did not work. It's finding the balance between prevention and intervention services. Van Hoof shared a handout showing a staffing timeline for the Children and Family Services Unit from 2010 to 2015. A copy is attached to minutes. Van Hoof stated that looking at outcomes based on this research; it has a dramatic impact on how we perform and make sure family needs are being met. Staff retention needs to be a focus moving forward for having good outcomes for children and families. Van Hoof reported Jensema will continue implementing "Supervising Safety". Staff will attend the follow-up one-day safety training and this will be a continued discussion across the agency and community because it impacts many community partners. Jensema will attend the second course for "Supervising Safety" next spring to focus on impending danger related to safety as it rolls out across the State. The direction from the state is safety focused which allows very little room for interpretation, and we will need to educate the community on what we will response to and what we will not respond to.

Van Hoof discussed Trauma Informed Care and ACE's, as those counties rolling out community-wide, have a community-wide approach to providing good services. Those counties have had savings in Residential costs and the ability to meet extreme goals; which include placing kids with relatives or family friends and not placing kids with strangers.

#### **Review comparable county data**

Van Hoof reported that several counties have provided some information but she is waiting for some counties to respond back. About 50% of those counties who responded have a Risk Reserve account. Many have not had to dip into the reserve. Others thought it was a good idea to have but have not been able to facilitate in their

county. There is a correlation between a low budget for out-of-home placements costs and increase budget for prevention services and intensive in-home services, whether those services are provided internally or contracted externally. Hurlbert questioned where the Risk Reserve came from. Olsen reported it was built up when Social Services had a budget surplus.

Van Hoof will bring more information next month after she receives the data from counties similar to Langlade.

**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 at the Health Service Center.

The next Special Session to discuss Out of Care Home costs will be held on Monday, June 22, 2015 at 2:00 pm in the board room at the Health Service Center.

Motion by Burby to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Benishek. Four ayes; one absent. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by,  
Liane Blahnik  
Administrative Assistant

May 26, 2015

Staffing Timeline- Children and Family Services Unit

2010-2014 and current year to date-

- 2010- Statewide loss of Title IV-E Funding which funding a position  
Social Work position not refilled after resignation in March
  
- 2011- Statewide Implementation of Foster Care Level of Care  
1 resignation – 1 new Social Worker – 6 months  
\$87,500 for Intensive In-Home Services
  
- 2012- Statewide implementation of Subsidized Guardianship  
1 resignation- 1 new Social Worker – Less than 1 year  
Director/Supervisor position shared  
\$150,000 for Intensive In-Home Services
  
- 2013- Statewide Rollout of Ongoing Standards  
2 resignations – 2 new Social Workers- within 2 months, remaining staff 50% over 5 yrs exp.  
No outside contracts for Child Welfare Services  
Staff work up 40 hours on trial basis  
Lead Worker Position resigns and Coordinatior/Supervisor Position begins in October
  
- 2014- Use of Permanency Roundtables begins to Improve Outcomes  
Increase Hours to 37.5 for Social Workers  
Creation of the Citizen Review Panel  
1 resignation – 1 new Social Worker  
Creation of MSW Position from Social Worker vacancy  
Creation of Foster Care Coordinator Position- LTE
  
- 2015- 1 resignation – 1 new Social Worker - 1 Social Worker 15 yrs, 4 remaining under 1.5 yrs  
Continued Foster Care Coordinator Position- LTE  
Recommendations:  
Participation in Supervising Safety - Supervisor/Staff Training  
Trauma Informed Care Introduction