

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

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

The meeting was called to order at the Resource Center, in the Wolf River Room at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 28, 2013 by Richard Hurlbert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Others present: Kim Van Hoof, Carlene Nagel, Robin Stowe, Gary Olsen, Dan Bauknecht, Tracy Zwirschitz, Scott Jensema, and Liane Blahnik.

### **Approval of the agenda.**

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

### **Discuss concerns on lack of community resources for families working with the Children and Family Services unit of Social Services.**

Benishek asked what tools are needed by the Children and Family Services Social Workers to help the children in Lenglade County.

Van Hoof reported community services for parenting, intensive in-home therapy, and wrap-around-services are very limited in Lenglade County. McKinney-Rice asked about statistics on the children who received intensive in-home services through the Department of Social Services. Van Hoof reported that 12 families were served by the two contracted employees. Several families had case plans of reunification and they achieved that goal and are still maintaining. Olsen reported that the intensive in-home services were very expensive, and now wrap-around services are being initiated with North Central Health Care (NCHC). Van Hoof reported the wrap-around-services through NCHC will only be provided to families who have alcohol or drug issues. The committee asked if the agency utilizes services provided by the Family Corner Resource Center (FCRC). Van Hoof reported some families served by FCRC are screened out referrals from the agency. Van Hoof stated that the judge looks at services offered to families working with the agency to make sure we are making diligent efforts to reunify children with their parents. Stowe asked if guidelines are in place to understand what can or what cannot be done for people with alcohol or drug addictions.

Bauknecht reported that Marathon County recently set up a task force to look at drug issues in Marathon County. Bauknecht reported that several of the surrounding counties currently do not have the drug issues we face here in Lenglade County. If Lenglade County sets up something we could become a leader and could be consulting other counties in the future.

Zwirschitz stated that parents working with the department need modeling in the home. Jensema stated that several years ago, the Family Preservation team worked well, as they

provided families with parenting and modeled those skills in homes. Olsen reported that with the county freeze, departments will not get to increase their budgets, and will need to find money within their existing budgets. Services and programs offered to the county need to be sustainable. Van Hoof asked if the county will look at budget priority in the future using their Program Ranking.

Discussion followed and one recommendation is to develop a task force to look at what community issues are: are they drug issues, alcohol issues, transportation issues, or a lack of economic opportunities. Another recommendation is to develop a list of services we want provided for the money the county gives to Boys and Girls Club, Family Corner Resource Center and AVAIL. Van Hoof stated the task force could look at populations they serve and how best they could use the money to help our agencies.

Stowe reported that the Health and Human Services feasibility study task force may identify some services provided in other counties, like the crisis workers that initially go out in Marathon County; we currently do not have that service in Langlade County. This study group may find services we could offer our county residents through collaboration with other counties.

Stowe asked about reassigning staff. Van Hoof reported some changes were made in the department due to loss of State and Federal funding. McKinney-Rice asked if Juvenile Court Workers could help with the work load. Van Hoof reported they did take some of the juvenile work, but without Social Work certification some work cannot be done by Juvenile Court workers.

Van Hoof will set up a task force and invite the following community members to participate: Boys and Girls Club, AVAIL, School District, Juvenile Court, NCHC, AVAIL, FCRC, UW Extension, Headstart, juvenile court, Hope Pregnancy, hospital, Birth to Three, and Social Services. Hurlbert requested the meeting be set up towards the end of a month so committee members could attend.

**Adjourn.**

Motion by Matucheski to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am. Motion second by Cahak. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by,  
Liane Blahnik, Administrative Assistant