

LANGLADE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, May 8th, 2017
10:00 a.m. – Health Service Center Board Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Vern Cahak, Holly Matucheski, Richard Hurlbert and Robert Benishek

ALSO PRESENT: Sheila Rine, Ron Barger, Patsy Rolo, and Tracy Chernetski

EXCUSED: Joe Novak

1. H. Matucheski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Attendance as listed above. Motion by D. Hurlbert, seconded by V. Cahak to excuse J. Novak. Motion carried.
4. Approve agenda – Motion by V. Cahak, seconded by D. Hurlbert to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
5. Minutes of the April 10th, 2017 board meeting were approved with motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert. Motion carried.
6. Public comment on agenda items, and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas - None.
7. Reviewed the Budget Summary Report and bills paid.
8. The next meeting will be Monday, June 12th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Health Service Center Board Room.
9. Correspondence and Reports:
 - a. Updates from Economic Support and Energy Assistance – Patsy passed around her report. Energy is winding down with the last day to apply being May 15th. Economic Support has 1 vacant position and interviews will be held on May 17th. Kelly Koepfel is doing her face to face training and is expected to be fully trained by August 1st. Patsy also shared that Nicole Rolain was hired about 2 months ago to oversee the Consortia Operations.
 - b. Updates from Children and Family Services – Tracy passed around her monthly report. 33 CHIPS petitions filed already in the first 4 months of 2017, whereas, the same time last year, there was only 7. Continuing trend of drugs in homes with children and workers responding with law enforcement weekly, sometimes multiple times per week. Besides the drug issues, the living conditions are unsafe and the CFS staff works with staff from the Health Department where some of these homes are considered unfit for habitation. There were only 2 cases in the last 6 months that were not drug related. B. Benishek would like something to be done in regards to these drug issues in Langlade County. B. Benishek suggested putting something in the newspaper or challenging the Judge to have stricter

rules. Ron explained that B. Benishek can do this as a citizen if he chooses too. Ron also explained that the Judge has sentencing guidelines that he needs to follow but does have some leeway. B. Benishek would like the Judge to come to our DSS oversight meetings but Ron explained that the Judge has court on Mondays. V. Cahak stated the Judge is being too easy on repeat offenders. B. Benishek would like the Health, DSS and Safety committees to meet with the Judge. Also discussed the need to have an additional Judge. County Board needs to have this discussion and make a formal recommendation and have the Judge reply to County Board. Ron will contact Robin.

- c. Updates from Juvenile Court – No update as Craig was not present.
- d. Legislative Update – Ron stated a Federal Court Judge repealed the 1997 Act 292, which dealt with unborn child abuse. This could go to the Supreme Court. Basically, an unborn child has no rights. The Governor is backing a proposal that single individuals without children who apply for services be drug tested. Lots of questions regarding this including who would pay for the drug testing. Also discussed where 17 year olds who are adjudicated into adult court at the present time, may be considered juvenile until age 18. This could put a strain on our Juvenile Justice staff.

10. Personnel Update

- a. Update on vacant positions – Interviews for the ES position will be on May 17th starting at 12:30 p.m. V. Cahak will sit in on the interviews.
- b. Charge card – Ann Albrecht, social worker is in need of a purchase card with a \$250 limit. This will be forwarded to Gary O in the Finance Department.

11. Old Business:

- a. Panic buttons – When the technician came to install the panic buttons, he had some concerns and after reviewing what was planned out, decided to cancel this and Ron then met with the salesperson and redid the plan. There will be a hard-wired panic button up front and 2 floating ones by the CFS section. The new estimate is to Nate Heuss waiting for his approval before moving forward. We will also own the equipment and not be renting anything.
- b. Update on request for FT Social Worker for CFS section – Ron informed the committee that this has passed through almost all committees. Goes to Executive Committee this week and then County Board for final approval.

12. New Business:

- a. Conference/Workshop attendance – Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by V. Cahak to allow any Social Services member to attend necessary meetings with per diem and mileage. Motion carried.

13. Referrals/Recommendations for June – Michelle Arrowood will come to talk about what is going on at AVAIL. Tracy will report on her conference related to Citizens Review panel that is being held in Alaska.

14. Motion B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Sheila Rine