

LANGLADE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, November 14, 2016
10:00 a.m. – Health Service Center Board Room

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Tracy Chernetski, Sheila Rine, Ron Barger, Craig Hotchkiss, Ann Albrecht, Kristi Auner, Carlene Nagel, Marie Foss, Crystal Baker

1. H. Matucheski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Attendance as listed above. Introductions made.
4. Approve agenda – Motion by V. Cahak, seconded by J. Novak to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
5. Minutes of the October 10th, 2016 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, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the Health Service Center Board Room.
9. Correspondence and Reports:
 - a. Updates from Economic Support and Energy Assistance – Ron shared P. Rolo's report. Currently, energy appointments are booked out until the middle of January. Currently, there were 657 applications processed with the average heat payment being \$320 and electric payment \$175. As of 11/10, there were 4 heating unit replacements. Between Nov. 1st and April 15th is the moratorium in which heat and electric vendors will not disconnect customers due to non-payment. Economic Support – Currently, there are 2.5 staff on the call center daily. The current caseload that each Langlade County Economic Support worker is responsible for 539 cases each, out of a total of 2693 cases. This will increase once Crystal has completed her training and is added as an ongoing worker. The Economic Support unit is also undergoing a change which will go in effect in Feb. 2017 for the Child Care Program. This program assists persons who need assistance in paying for child care costs if they are employed or in an approved activity. This change will be called MyWICChildCare.
 - b. Updates from Children and Family Services – T. Chernetski handed out a summary of case reports. Closed 20 cases. 19 screened in assessments. Continue to see concerns with substance abuse and unsafe living conditions. Meth primarily. New process started Nov. 1st

with the CPS staff. All staff will now be cross-trained in all areas giving workers more confidence and so far, seems to be working out well. On call after hours has a rotation of staff as well.

- c. Updates from Juvenile Court – Craig passed around his report. Craig stated that 1 facility had to hire additional staff due to one of our clients being placed there that has become so difficult, that extra 1:1 help is needed with the child (a 13 year old). This is the first time since Craig has worked here for 20 years, that he has had this happen. Reviewed the rest of the cases. Ron stated that Juvenile Justice went under his supervision at DSS in April of this year and that this now needs to be officially recognized as a permanent placement under the authority of the DSS department. Motion by D. Hurlbert, seconded by V. Cahak to continue to have Juvenile Justice under the director of Social Services. Motion carried. Craig did state that things have run smoothly and he is happy things are working out well.
- d. Legislative Update – In the WI Counties Association magazine, it discusses the need to approach the state legislation with increased funding for Children’s and Family Aid. Ron stated there were templates available to support the 2017-2019 state increasing the funding for Children’s welfare. Robin drafted a resolution based off the templates that were in the WI Counties magazine. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by J. Novak to request to adopt the resolution drafted by Robin to support the 2017-2019 state increasing funding for Children’s welfare. Motion carried. This will go to the county board.
- e. FSET Program Update – Marie Foss stated that high enrollments, around 98-100 individuals working to get them into the workforce. During Sept., and the potato harvest season, that employed some individuals bringing their numbers down to around 80 clients. Now that potato season is done, they will get them back to the FSET program and continue to work with the Economic Support to get them enrolled. Marie continues to work with Economic Development and local businesses to find out what they need and how to get them workers. Additionally, the FSET program received the Independent Living Program which will work out of their Wausau office but come to Langlade County to help individuals who are aging out of the Foster Care program.

10. Personnel Update

- a. Economic Support – Crystal Baker was introduced as the new Economic Support Worker. Crystal stated her training will be done in February.
- b. Social Worker Positions – Kristi Auner and Ann Albrecht both were introduced as the new social workers.
- c. 2015-2016 Reorganization Summary – Ron gave a presentation on the reorganization. A copy of the new org chart was also passed around. Ron stated he met with Gary and Carlene this morning and at the last BOH oversight meeting, it was discussed to have the new clerical person work 4 days with Carrie Zelazoski before she retired the end of December. However, Gary stated that this would impact health insurance in the 2017 budget. Motion by D. Hurlbert, seconded by B. Benishek that due to impact on 2017 budget, DSS oversight will not back the BOH request and the clerical position will start on Jan. 3rd. Motion carried. Ron also discussed the move to have clerical under the supervision of the Office Manager. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to move the clerical support staff under the supervision of the Office Manager and forward to Personnel Committee. Motion carried. Ron also gave a “wish” list of what he would like to see in the future as far as moving the Economic Support staff, Office Manager and Supervisors to 37.5 hours/week. Ron explained why this would be necessary and the oversight committee agrees and questioned why we

are not doing this already. However, will need to see what the budget looks like for 2018. This would affect 10 individuals. Also the creation of a Lead Social Worker in case of the Supervisor's absence. B. Benishek stated he is glad the org charts are kept separately (Health and Social Services) to keep both offices individualized.

- d. Ron mentioned that IT has helped with getting lap tops for the social workers to work with in the field but they are finding internet issues a problem. They have found mi-fi units which provide secure internet connections. Ron will be approaching the Citizens Review Panel to see if they would fund this project and the data fees. Ron explained what the CRP is as several of the members were not aware of this committee. The approximate cost would be \$230/mo for all units and charges. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by J. Novak to have Ron take this request to the Citizens Review Panel for funding and upon approval, approach Gary Olsen with this. Motion carried.

11. Old Business:

- a. Painting of Juvenile Justice office spaces update – Ron stated that Public Property met and Nate Heuss updated the current paint policy. Basically, the policy states that anyone who primarily works with children can make a request to their department head, who will then take the request to Nate, which then goes to Public Property. The department must pay for their own paint and make the request with the 2 approved colors. Ron is scheduled to be on the Public Property agenda in December and will also be requesting the Citizens Review Panel to fund this.

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 December – Ron will ask Debra McGregor to come and talk about the Citizens Review Panel.

14. Motion D. Hurlbert, seconded by V. Cahak to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Sheila Rine