

LANGLADE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
10:30 a.m. – Health Service Center Board Room

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Tracy Chernetski, Patsy Rolo, Sheila Rine, Pete Pennington, Gary Olsen, Ron Barger, Carlene Nagel, RJ Weitz, Angel Zimmerman, Dave Corcoran, Dave Solin, Deb McGregor, Michelle Arrowood, Robin Stowe, Craig Hotchkiss

ABSENT: Richard Burby - unexcused

1. H. Matucheski called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Attendance as listed above. Introductions made.
4. Approve agenda – Motion by V. Cahak, seconded by R. Hurlbert to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
5. Minutes of the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 board meeting were approved with motion by D. Hurlbert, seconded by B. Benishek. 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, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club. **(Please note time change. It will be at 10 a.m. moving forward.)**
9. Boys & Girls Club presentation – Angel passed around a “2015 Impact Report” that shows the number of children served, staff, locations, statistics, etc. Angel states that approximately 3-4 years ago, the B&G Club used to go to the Finance committee for funding requests but since then, it was put under DSS budget and they oversee the funding. Angel stated they have 655 club members who pay \$25/yr to attend the club, however the costs for 1 child to attend for a year are \$750. There are scholarships available if a parent cannot afford to send their child to the club. Dave Corcoran reviewed some of the programs the club offers such as their After School program, Positive Action, which used to be the Smart Moves program, Jr Staff and Career Launch. The club has received numerous awards recently with their summer camp being their most successful yet. Angel did state that the less money they receive from the county, would also mean the less grant money they would receive.

Deb McGregor from the Family Resource Center (FRC) also came to talk about their programs they offer. Deb passed around the 2015 summary sheet of services provided. In 2016, monies from the county were reallocated and work plans were developed with Ron's help through DSS. The main need they are seeing is the need for parenting classes. Deb reviewed the request for \$20,000 is to do 4 – 10 session classes; to have 2 staff available with 1 offering child care services. They would also be offering evening classes. The staff can also work with moms while they are pregnant for up to 5 years (typically 3 years) and then they transition to Head start. Families are experiencing many challenges. Grants can only come into the area if they receive local funding to provide match funds for these larger amounts of services.

Ron stated he has \$7639 left in his 2017 budget for service groups. Robin mentioned that one objective in dealing with families that are struggling is to have the court mandate families to participate in these programs. Gary mentioned that Taylor County is partnered with Langlade County DSS for providing the foster care program, which decreased the amount available for the service groups. There is nothing we can do as a committee. If you are going to give more money, you need to find more money. There is little money in DSS 2017 budget. Gary recommends that you take this back to the Finance Committee and put these service group funds back in the general fund and cap the amounts they will receive each year. That way, no one will need to come back every year for requesting funding. It would be a set amount each year through a resolution and Finance Committee would deal with this from here on. B. Benishek reminded the committee that there is a lot of poverty in the county and budgets and finances are tight. County board needs to figure out their priorities. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to take these financial requests to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

#### 10. Correspondence and Reports:

- a. Updates from Economic Support and Energy Assistance – P. Rolo stated there were 14 applicants for the ES position. Crystal Baker has been hired and will start on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Energy sent out approximately 600 short applications and Sheila and Tara have been working on these. The end of this month, phone calls will be coming in for making energy appointments and an ad will be in the Shoppers. Sheila will be attending the Energy Training the end of the month. No report handed out because the season will close out the end of this month and the new season starting Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- b. Updates from Children and Family Services – T. Chernetski handed out a summary of case reports. 34 cases closed. There is a need for foster care homes in Langlade County. Interviews for the 2 Social Worker positions will be this week Wed. Tracy commends her staff for helping out and jumping in where necessary. Carlene handed out a budget summary. Subcare is currently projected to be under budget; Youth aids are projected to be over by \$240,000 and Juvenile Housing over budget by \$13,000.
- c. Updates from Juvenile Court – C. Hotchkiss passed around the explanation of placement costs. Placements did go down a little in August but we have the potential for 3 more cases.
- d. Legislative Update - None

#### 11. Personnel Update

- a. 2 Social Worker positions available. Interviews will be this Wednesday.
- b. Economic Support – Crystal Baker was hired and will start on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Meeting with Regional DCF staff on August 16<sup>th</sup> – Ron stated the state came and said we had too many backlogged cases previously. The state will be thrilled to know that we closed out 34 cases and so we are starting to look better.

12. At approximately 11:50 a.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1)(c) & (f), Wis. Stats., to consider performance evaluation data of director's position and consider personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons and preliminary consideration of specific personnel programs.  
Motion by D. Hurlbert, seconded by V. Cahak to move into closed session. By roll call vote, Hurlbert, aye, Cahak, aye, Benishek, aye, Matucheski aye. The Committee commenced to closed session at 11:50 a.m.
13. At approximately 12:30 p.m., return to open session with possible action taken on any matters discussed during closed session.  
Motion by D. Hurlbert, seconded by V. Cahak to return to open session. All ayes. Motion carried. The committee returned to open session. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to allow the forms used for performance evaluation be acceptable to use. Motion carried.
14. Old Business – None
15. New Business:
- a. Conference/Workshop attendance – Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by D. Hurlbert to allow any Social Services member to attend necessary meetings with per diem and mileage. Motion carried.
16. Referrals/Recommendations for October – None. November FSET will attend to give an update.
17. Motion by B. Benishek, seconded by V. Cahak to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:  
Sheila Rine