

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
January 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held January 19, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwight Walvatne
Bill LaValley
Troy Johnson
Doyle Sperr
Ken Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director
Tanya Winter, Foster Parent: Foster Closet
Katie Ennen, Senior Coordinator

Doyle Sperr called the meeting to order at 1 PM.

Pledge of allegiance was done

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Doyle Sperr nominated Dwight Walvatne to serve as the chair, seconded by Troy Johnson, and to close nominations. With no further nominations, MCU Chair Walvatne took over the meeting and called for nominations for vice chair. Troy Johnson made a motion to nominate Bill LaValley for vice chair and close nominations, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed and added the approval of the joint board meeting minutes from January 8, 2021. After review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ken Johnson, MCU

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 15, 2020 and January 8, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

BILLS: The Social Services Claims Abstract and Purchase of Service Bills were presented and reviewed. After questions Doyle Sperr made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Troy Johnson, MCU

BOARD REPORTS: Report from Board Appointments

Lakeland Mental Health..... Ken Johnson
Horizon Community Health Board..... Doyle Sperr, Dwight Walvatne
County Based Purchasing..... Troy Johnson/Ken Johnson
Grant County DAC..... Ken Johnson
West Central Communities Action, Inc... Ken Johnson
Agency on Aging..... Bill LaValley
Child Protection Pre-Placement..... Troy Johnson
Rainbow Rider..... Bill LaValley/Dwight Walvatne
Region IV South Governing Board..... Ken Johnson

CONTRACTS

A. **Region IV South Joint Powers Board:**

The director reviewed the changes proposed for the Region IV South Joint Powers agreement that runs our adult mental health initiative. The director noted that all of the concerns previously noted by this board and other county boards have been addressed in this document. Since Grant was one of two counties who already had a commissioner on the governing board, that change will not be an issue for us. The other point that does not pertain to them is appointing a person in my place. While I am the director for three counties I serve on this board as a Grant County Representative and that will continue. After review, Doyle Sperr made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

B. **Legal Kiosk MOU:**

The board was made aware of this previously and had approved us receiving this before. The director signed the MOU because they needed it completed by a certain date for the CARES dollars, but the director still wanted the board to review it and approve it. After review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Troy Johnson, MCU

C. **Region IV South Crisis Allocation:**

The director reviewed the 2021 allocation for the Region IV South Crisis Team. The director noted this is another one where she did not get it in time for the December board but it needed to be approved. After review, Keith Swanson made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Dwight Walvatne, MCU

D. **Adult Mental Health 2021-2022 Contract:**

The director reviewed with the board the 2021-2022 contract for the Regional Adult Mental Health Initiative Grant that we are the fiscal host for. This is another case where I did not get it in time for the December board but they would not pay it until it was signed, so I had to sign it before 01-01-21. After discussion the board agreed that I could sign things like that when necessary but would bring it to board after, and would delay the signature when possible so the board could give me permission to electronically sign contracts. After review, Bill LaValley made a motion approving the contract, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Case Counts:**

The Director reviewed the case counts with the Board. In Social Services we saw an increase in CP intakes, likely due to distance learning absences. The director noted that we have had 32 new child support cases over the last year and noted how that is more than we have ever had in a year, and with a new staff. We've seen our MA and cash programs grow, but since we can't do recertifications it's hard to determine what the true number is.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Foster Closet Request:**

Tanya Winters, a foster parent, was present via zoom and talked with the board about the Foster Closet, a project she founded and that runs in Grant County. She talked about what it does and what it is and noted that they are out of space and need additional space. The board gave her some suggestions for private spaces and indicated that they would keep her needs in mind and let her know if they thought of any space. They thanked her for the work she's done and the director noted how much it has helped the kids we have in placement and the providers.

- B. Senior Services: Katie Ennen:
Katie presented to the board on the changes in our senior services during COVID and how she is doing business right now, as well as how we plan to keep doing business in the foreseeable future. Katie noted that in Revation, the documentation system the Land of the Dancing Sky has them use, we had more contacts with clients in 2020 than in 2019. The contacts are more virtual or phone, but we are still in contact with people.
- C. Retirement Notice:
The director gave the board a notice of retirement from Diane Amundson. After 40 years with the county, Diane is retiring on February 15, 2021. The board asked the director to please thank Diane for her service and wish her well. The director indicated that this is the third longer term retirement in the past year and we have seen a lot of historical knowledge leave, and that we were fortunate to have people who were dedicated and cared so much about their job. After discussion, Doyle Sperr made a motion to accept her notice of retirement, seconded by Troy Johnson, MCU.
- D. Placement Data:
The director reviewed the out of home placements with the board. We have 15 children in placement from 9 families, with eleven kids awaiting adoption, and 2 children pending a termination of parental rights. Our daily costs are \$581.00. Our monthly cost was \$18,011.00. Commissioner Johnson sits on the preplacement committee and is aware of and spoke to the work being done on the cases. The director and Commissioner Johnson noted that we have 2 more kids that we know came in to placement in January, so they will be on the next report. We discussed the difficulties in some of the cases that we are having.
- E. December Financial Report:
The director reviewed the financial report with the board. We are 100% of the way through the year and our revenues are at 101% and our expenses are at 100%. We are significantly over budget in out of home placements and the services that go alongside reunification. Our cash balance is up \$31,501 from this time last year. The director reviewed components of the year end budget where we were over in expenses and revenues and discussed it with the board.
- F. Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP):
The director reviewed the Statewide CCAP report for the end of the year. We were the highest over spending county, percentage wise, in the State. When the initial 2021 allocation came out we saw a \$6,545 increase in our allocation. When they put their final allocation out they increased us even more and our 2021 allocation is \$26,497 higher than 2020, which will help us not be so over. Once the waivers are done we can assess if we should add a family or two off our waiting list.
- G. Joint Board Meetings:
The director reviewed the last meeting and the process for meeting in the future as well as what may be coming to the Joint board in February
- H. Grant County Board meeting:
The director noted that now that we are in the afternoon she was wondering if the board wants to set a start time of 1pm, knowing that they will likely be done early sometimes in the morning, or set it as something else? After discussion the board asked the director to check with the county attorney and see if we can post the start time as 45 minutes after the end of the morning meeting. If the county attorney approves it that is what we'll do. The director asked if they wanted to stay in the first floor meeting or go back to the 2nd floor meeting room. The board decided to go back upstairs to facilitate the director being able to have the agenda and papers on the screen so even people who are remote can see it.
- I. SNAP/MFIP increase in benefits:
The director shared a letter we had received about the benefits increasing for SNAP and MFIP in the latest stimulus package.
- J. Update on Traverse:
The director reviewed the process thus far and said that it appeared things were going well. The director has had two board meetings so far and they have gone well, and the director noted that she is managing on the two days a month in person. Her workload is a little high and she is working on ways to manage that.
- K. Update on Productive Alternatives/DAC:
The director reviewed a written request from PAI for the COVID relief dollars the county has and indicated she would submit that to Tina and Chad as well. The board asked if we would have representation on the PAI board since we do have it on the DAC board. The director indicated she would ask and get back to the board. The director noted that we're excited to begin offering Day Services and want to see the updates to the building. PAI has said they are happy to do tours.
- L. Private Client Data:
All pertinent data was discussed.

Chairman Dwight Walvatne adjourned the meeting at 3:40pm
