

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
January 21, 2020

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held January 21, 2020 at the Social Service Center, Elbow Lake, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwight Walvatne
Bill LaValley
Troy Johnson
Doyle Sperr
Keith Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director
Justin Anderson, County Attorney
Phyllis Reller, Social Services Supervisor
Wanda Saurer, Grant County DAC Board
Gary Amundson, Grant County DAC Board
Todd Nelson, Grant County DAC
Kathy Huemoeller, DAC Board
Jennes Swenson, DAC Board
Bob Johnson, DAC Board

Troy Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Troy Johnson called for nominations for a Chairman for 2020. Keith Swanson Nominated Doyle Sperr, seconded by Bill LaValley. There were three calls for nominations with no other nominations for Chairman, MCU. Chairman Doyle Sperr called for nominations for Vice chair. Troy Johnson made a motion nominating Dwight Walvatne for Vice chair, seconded by Keith Swanson. There were three calls for nominations and no other nominations made for Vice-Chair, MCU

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. Keith Swanson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 17, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dwight Walvatne, MCU.

BILLS: The Social Services Claims Abstract and Purchase of Service Bills were presented and reviewed. After questions Keith Swanson made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Dwight Walvatne, MCU

BOARD REPORTS:

Report from Board Appointments
Lakeland Mental Health..... Keith Swanson
Horizon Community Health Board..... Doyle Sperr, Dwight Walvatne
Community Based Purchasing.....Keith Swanson/Bill LaValley
Grant County DAC..... Doyle Sperr
West Central Communities Action, Inc...Keith Swanson
Agency on Aging.....Bill LaValley
Child Protection Pre-Placement.....Troy Johnson
Rainbow Rider..... Bill LaValley/Dwight Walvatne
Adult Mental Health Team..... Troy Johnson

CONTRACTS

A. **Region IV-S Crisis Grant Amendment:**

The board reviewed the amendment to the crisis grant that awards Region IV South additional money for training for their crisis staff. After review, Keith Swanson made a motion to approve, seconded by Troy Johnson, MCU

B. **Fathers Resource Memorandum of Understanding:**

The board reviewed the MOU with Ottertail County for the provision of services for parenting time resources for people seeking custody or child support changes. The director talked about our contribution and answered questions about the program and contact. After discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Dwight Walvatne, MCU

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Case Counts:**

The Director reviewed the case counts with the Board. Overall our caseloads are relatively stable. There were some numbers not there so a direct comparison is hard, but we are steady in numbers. We saw a decrease in child protection intakes. That was after several months of high numbers and wasn't unexpected.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Executive Order on Refugees:**

The director and county attorney talked with the board about the information we got from the Department of Human Services regarding Refugee Resettlement. Based on the Presidential Order all counties would need to decide if they would accept refugee resettlement communities in their county. The director gave the board numbers from each county for the past 5 years. Overall the number of refugees is getting lower and lower, and none have been resettled in Grant County, or any small, rural county. They primarily tend to focus on counties that have enough industry to support the housing and job needs. The county attorney explained the decision before them but also noted that since the agenda was completed and sent out there has been a Federal injunction on the Presidential Order and we should wait to see how that ends up before a decision is made. The board agreed to wait.

B. **Civil Rights Addendum:**

The director reviewed the civil rights addendum that we have to start adding to all of our contracts because of the federal dollars we receive. The director noted that the county attorney assisted us in writing the document and making sure it met all the requirements. They have been sent out to all our contract holders and in the future will be included in the contract when it is renewed. The director asked that the board approve the document. After review and discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the document, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

- C. Toys For Tots Financial Statement:
The director reviewed the 2019 financial information and the director reminded the board that this is held in a separate account, per the State Auditor. This requires a separate approval from the board. In 2019 we started with a balance of \$2,639.17. We served 49 families and 119 children. We received \$3,561.75 in donations this year and ended with a balance of \$3,014.92 in the account. After review and discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the financial statements, seconded by Dwight Walvatne, MCU
- D. Placement Data:
The director reviewed the out of home placements and noted that the primary issues continue to be child protection, specifically parental drug abuse and parents who have previous involuntary terminations. Currently we have sixteen children in placement. Six of those children are in a trial home visit, which means we are no longer paying for their placement as they are home, but we are assessing if the move home should be permanent and continue. Our daily costs are \$546.54. Our monthly cost was \$14,747.18.
- E. Joint Board Meeting:
The director talked with the director about the upcoming February meeting and the agenda for that meeting.
- F. Grant County DAC:
Several members of the Grant County DAC Board and their executive director (ED) joined the board meeting as well as the county attorney and social services supervisor. The director started by explaining that we wanted to talk about the letter that we received from DHS following a conversation the director and social services supervisor had with them. DHS had concerns about the lack of progress the Grant County DAC was making to come into compliance with requirements related to training and community-based services for the people we serve. The director further noted that DHS had been given the impression that Grant County, specifically social services, may have something to do with the DAC not complying. The ED denied that they had said that and that there were any problems with the staff from GCSS. The social services supervisor reminded the ED that we have attempted to talk to him several times about our concerns about the lack of community based services for people with disabilities. The supervisor gave some history of the changes made in the disabilities system to help the county board have some context. The ED indicated several times that all they have to do is check to check marks on the attestation papers. He went into detail about why they couldn't meet them, that the training system wasn't working and the training was expensive. We talked again about the fact that we would like to see more people working in the community and in fact we have several clients who are being served at other centers because they want to work in the community and are able to functionally and don't want to sit in the DAC building. The director reminded the ED that several years back even we talked about this and offered some options, meeting with public health as well about their need to have people who could do chore services and that it would be a job opportunity for people with disabilities. The DAC board was generally supportive of the ED and indicated that there aren't available jobs and providers don't want to pay their clients. Further, they indicated that their population are senior citizens who aren't able to work anymore. We reminded them that they are not getting younger people in part because there are not community opportunities for them. The SS Supervisor gave many examples of what they could do to increase community engagement and involvement for people. The supervisor also talked at length about the philosophy behind the changes being made across the State in DAC's and DT&H's and expressed concern that we weren't seeing that in our DAC. The ED continued to state this is simply a matter of providing some training to the staff and then they will be fine. He indicated that STAR services is going to help them get the training, they will get the two boxes checked, and everything will be fine. He indicated he thought this would all be taken care of shortly. The county attorney explained that we have had a board member on the board for many years and, to our knowledge, the DAC board has not generally or regularly received financial reports, reviewed and approved budgets, and reviewed and approved the status of things like their performance or the attestation. The county attorney explained to the DAC board that they have an obligation to have the information and review it before making decisions. He further indicated that if that is not happening or does not start to happen, Grant County cannot in good conscience have a County Board member on the DAC board. We have to be sure that our board members can make the decisions necessary of a board and have adequate information to do so.
- G. December Financial:
The director reviewed the December financial reports with the board. Included in the financial reports are budget, collections, and current cash balances. We are 100% through the year and our revenues are at 109% and our expenses are at 108%. The director noted where we are over revenue and where we went over budget.
- H. Licensing Fee Schedule:
The director presented the board with an updated fee schedule. The primary change is that we cannot charge an additional fee for the Net Study background check. Since we have our own net study machine we do get a \$3 fee from all the background checks that we do, we just cannot charge a separate fee to providers. The board reviewed the policy and after review Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the fee schedule, seconded by Keith Swanson, MCU
- I. HSPM Data:
There was not enough time for this so the board asked that I move it to the February agenda
- J. Annual Child Support Data:
The director reviewed the 2018/2019 child support performance data and gave a comparison for the region. Grant County met the federal performance guidelines for current support, which is 80%, with 82.71%. The measure for arrears is 80%, Grant County achieved it by getting 80.01%. Our paternity establishment was 107.4% and our order establishment is 96.09%. We met all four federal measures. Again, our staff in this area work very hard and are very skilled.
- K. Mental Health Advisory Council Appointment:
The board was asked to appoint Amanda Weigand to our Mental Health Local Advisory Council. She sits on there as a Grant County staff. After reviewing the application Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU
- L. Senior Spotlight 1-07-20:
The board reviewed and received a copy of the article from January 7, 2020.

M. Medical Assistance Transportation:

The director explained to the board that there have been changes made to our medical assistance access plan. The plan is primarily dictated by the Department of Human Services. They pay for the transportation and require that we do a plan to ensure that we follow all the State and Federal requirements. One of the changes is that we are no longer able to allow them to go over 30 miles if there is a provider closer unless they get the closer provider to give them a referral. For example, someone who lives in Elbow Lake and wants to go to the doctor in Alexandria would need to go to the Elbow Lake Clinic and get a referral for Alexandria. The distance is 60 miles for specialists. Some of our clients are upset about this. We have clarified numerous times to everyone we speak to that medical assistance would still pay for the visit, but they would not receive mileage. We are also notifying all volunteer drivers that they need to get a preauthorization for medical assistance rides or we will not pay for them. While we want to be accommodating, we cannot bill those back to medical assistance so it becomes county levy dollars that pay for it. We do not have that budgeted and will not have the transportation grant to fund these anymore.

N. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed

Chairman Troy Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:47am
