

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
February 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held February 17, 2021 at 9am after being postponed due to an emergency within the county and a closing of the building on February 16, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwight Walvatne
Bill LaValley
Doyle Sperr
Ken Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director
DeeAnn Miller, Social Worker
Jeff Merrick, Facilities Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT

Troy Johnson

Dwight Walvatne called the meeting to order at 9am.

Pledge of allegiance was done

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed and 9M, Building Committee was added to the agenda. After review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 19, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Doyle Sperr made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill LaValley, 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 Bill LaValley, 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. **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) 2021 Budget Addendum:**

The director reviewed the budget being proposed by Rural MN CEP, our employment services provider for MFIP clients, with the board. There were some changes from CEP's initial request and the director explained why and what other things this State Grant pays for. After review, Ken Johnson made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

B. **Ray Of Hope Reflective Supervision Contract:**

The director explained that reflective supervision was generally used for social workers and was intended to allow them to process the decisions they make every day and the stress they experience from areas like child protection. The director explained that we have used it in the past and would like to expand that a little bit and if it's helpful this year look at expanding it more after this year. The board asked question about how it would be used, for whom, and if all would be aware of the option. After review and discussion, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Ken Johnson, MCU

C. **Public Defender Contract:**

The director reviewed an updated contract for public defender services for CHIPS (Child in need of protection or services) petitions that we file. While this used to be funded by the State it was shifted to the counties several years ago. We do not have to go out for bids for this since it is a professional service, but we do need an updated contract as our current one is out of date. We will continue to contract with Kent Marshall, the director reviewed the terms of the contract and discussed some of the requests that we made in this contract. After review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve 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, and noted that they are the highest they have been at least since December of 2019. The director reviewed all of the cases counts and noted the increases and decreases.

B. **Legislative Update:**

The director reviewed MACSSA's legislative update and highlighted the things of particular importance or impact for small counties.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Local Advisory Council Update:**

Grant County's Adult Mental Health Social Worker joined the board and discussed the Grant County Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) with them. Every county is required by statute to have an LAC in their county and the LAC's primary duty in statute is to educate the community on mental health issues and determine what the unmet needs are in the community and report that to the board. The social worker reported to the board what the LAC typically does and how that's been impacted by COVID. She then reviewed the unmet needs of the county. The board had a lot of questions about the unmet needs and why those issues exist and how we could look at improving them in the county.

B. Child Support Temporary Assistance:

The director noted that due to timing and need the personnel committee had approved this but still wanted it to go to the full board for approval. Our child support officer resigned and we only have one employed by the county at this time. The director spoke with the county attorney and his staff who does child support was able to take 3 new cases, which we gave her. We need someone to maintain the caseload over the next few months while we hire and start the training process of a new staff. Our recently retired staff has offered to come back. She will come back for 2 days a week at the fully loaded rate that she was making when she retired. A fully loaded rate includes the monetary amount for all of a person's benefits that the county pays, like sick, vacation and insurance. The rate for this employee was \$48.97 upon retirement. The director noted that we are unlikely to find anyone else, particularly someone who has been retired just under a year so she knows the caseload and the people. After discussion, Ken Johnson made a motion to approve the temporary contract for services with Vicky Kloos for \$48.97/hour. This is for 2 days a week and the board would like to be updated if there is a need to extend it beyond April, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

C. Rainbow Rider Transportation:

The director discussed with the board that the amount of the bill for capital contribution was more than was budgeted and noted for us in 2021. The board discussed it and after discussion, Ken Johnson made a motion to pay the amount we budgeted and send a request to Rainbow Rider asking for a reason that it is over the allotted amount. The motion was seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU.

D. Placement Data:

The director reviewed the out of home placements with the board. We have 18 children in placement from 12 families, with fourteen kids awaiting adoption or adoption placements. Our daily costs are \$864.60. Our monthly cost was \$26,508.15 The director spoke to the work being done on the cases. The director noted that we have 1 child who was adopted this month and will come off in the March meeting, since this is a month behind, and that we have 2 more ready for adoption. The director also noted that we have 2 more kids who we know will be going into placement, one waived and one a sibling to two other kids who are awaiting permanency. We discussed the difficulties in some of the cases that we are having.

E. January Financial Report:

The director reviewed the financial report with the board. We are 8% of the way through the year and our revenues are at 5% and our expenses are at 8%. We are slightly over budget in out of home placements since we have so many kids waiting for adoption. Our cash balance is up \$75,895 from this time last year.

F. Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) allocation update again:

The director reviewed a second updated allocation for CCAP for 2021. 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, This second increased allocation puts our allocation at \$105,453, almost another \$10,000 increase.

G. Joint Board Meetings:

The director reviewed the last meeting and updates on actions taken in the Joint Board meeting.

H. Grant County Board meeting:

The director indicated that she could check and see if we could simply be part of the regular board meeting so our meeting would begin 45 minutes after the morning session ends. The director indicated she would reach out to the county attorney and ask.

I. County Recoveries between fiscal years 2018-2020:

The director reviewed Grant County's history of medical assistance recoveries for the federal fiscal year 2018, 2019 and 2020. The director noted that she compared us to our region first and then to counties that are similar size since the board has asked for that in the past.

J. Governor's Budget Proposal/MACSSA's Leg Agenda:

The director reviewed the things in the Governor's budget that impact us and rated the impact from high to low. She also reviewed MACSSA's legislative proposal and talked to the board about bills that we are watching and either supporting or are concerned about.

K. Human Services Performance Management System Update:

The director did a very quick overview and indicated she was going to table this to next month when we have more time.

L. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed.

M. Building Committee:

The director and facilities manager talked to the board about the fact that we have 4 desks upstairs that are not like the others. These four are only raising desks on one side. The initial design of the building required that and the furniture was ordered like that, but between the time it was ordered and completion they had changed the design of the building and it would have accommodated that L shaped standing desk. The director brought the commissioners back to the offices and showed the difference between the L shaped standing desks and the desks with a rectangle that stands. The director noted the ergonomic differences and noted that this has been a source of issues within the staff about who has those desks compared to the others. The board reviewed estimates that the building committee had seen to replace the desks. The estimate to replace 4 desks was \$8,065. The building committee recommended that we get a quote for retro fitting the desks and we had that as well. To retro fit all four desks so they raise in an L shape the quote was \$4,335.68. The director noted that this purchase will go on our quarterlies and submitted for reimbursement if approved. After discussion, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve retrofitting the four desks for the quote of \$4,335.68, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

Chairman Dwight Walvatne adjourned the meeting at 12:31pm
