

**GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**  
**March 16, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held March 16, 2021 at 11:46 am.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dwight Walvatne  
Bill LaValley  
Doyle Sperr  
Ken Johnson  
Troy Johnson

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director  
Justin Anderson, County Attorney  
Ashley Hokanson, Human Resources

Dwight Walvatne called the meeting to order at 11:46 am

**Pledge of allegiance was done**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was reviewed and after review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 17, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Doyle Sperr made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ken Johnson, MCU

**BILLS:** The Social Services Claims Abstract and Purchase of Service Bills were presented and reviewed. After questions Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Doyle Sperr, 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  
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. None this Month

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Case Counts:

The director reviewed all of the cases counts and noted the increases and decreases. Our child protection intakes continue to be high and we continue to see growth in our medical assistance cases as well.

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. KIDS Count and PrimeWest Race Report:

The director reviewed both reports with the board and talked about the statistics for Grant County.

B. Account Technician Job Description:

The County Attorney and Human Resources Director joined the meeting for a review of the changes being proposed in the account technician job description. The director noted that this job has historically been very hard to hire for in part because the grade has been so low. We have changed the job description to align with Pope County and the duties needed in a merged entity. We have also increased the requirements to a minimum of a 2 year degree. The board will need to approve these changes but we have not been able to get the grading back from Baker Tilly at this point. After discussion of our options, so we do not have to wait a month to post this position, and since it is not a new position but is a vacant position that was made vacant last fall when our account tech took an eligibility worker position, Ken Johnson made a motion to approve the position pending the personnel committee's review and approval once the grading comes back, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU. The director will still follow up with the full board about this in April

C. Grant County's position on the DAC Board:

The county attorney discussed the Grant County DAC board and our position on it. While we have always had a board member on that board it does not necessarily transfer any liability or responsibility in the dissolution of the board. The board discussed it and noted that there had not been any regular meetings in the past year and it has appeared that the executive director and the DAC's board chair has been making the bulk of the decisions. After discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to formally notify the DAC Board that Grant County will no longer have a seat on the board. The motion was seconded by Ken Johnson, MCU.

D. Placement Data:

The director reviewed the out of home placements with the board. We have 20 children in placement from 13 families, with fourteen kids who are State wards, pending adoption or adoption placements and three children placed under 260D for their own disabilities. Our daily costs are \$890.19. Our monthly cost was \$22,868.64 The director spoke to the work being done on the cases and the differing payment sources for the 260D cases. The director noted that we have 1 child whose adoption is complete, 2 more ready for adoption just pending a hearing and the siblings we have in Washington State just got final information needed to move forward with their relative adoption. COVID and closure of fingerprinting was the reason for that delay. The director also noted that we have 2 more kids who we requested a pick-up order for. We discussed the difficulties in some of the cases that we are having. Our primary issue has been parental use and exposure of the children to methamphetamines.

- E. February Financial Report:  
The director reviewed the financial report with the board. We are 17% of the way through the year and our revenues are at 18% and our expenses are at 14%. We are slightly over budget in out of home placements since we have so many kids waiting for adoption. Our cash balance is up \$75,093 from this time last year.
- F. Productive Alternatives Update:  
The director gave the board an update on our day services and employment services for people with disabilities that are now being offered by Productive Alternatives instead of the Grant County DAC. The case managers have been very pleased with the services offered and noted that we have more people who previously retired choosing to come back and do day services. We are hopeful that when they can be fully open their numbers will be higher than they were previously. The director gave the board a list of the activities they have done since opening and the noted that we are thrilled to see them in the community more. Commissioner Ken Johnson noted that he has toured it and it looks good. He also noted that they plan to fully utilize the outdoor space they have for planting and gardening, which has been done by the community when the DAC wasn't able to the past couple of years. Productive Alternatives is using Rainbow Rider to assist in transporting and they are not opening a facility in Starbuck at this time and are bussing people to Hoffman. That has gone smoothly so far.
- 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 start time:  
The director asked the board if they would like an hour or 45 minutes in between the morning meeting and this meeting. The board indicated we should keep it at 45 minutes but recognize that we may start late occasionally.
- I. Letter from DHS:  
The director reviewed the letter received from DHS that our fiscal office has gotten all quarterly reports in on time in 2020. The director noted that when she came here we had not been getting them done on time and it has been on time for 10 of her last 12 years. The director noted this is a result of the good work of the fiscal department.
- J. Update on Productive Alternatives:  
Given earlier in the meeting.
- K. Human Services Performance Management System Update:  
The director reviewed the measures with the board as well as the concerns that the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA) has expressed to DHS about some of the measures. Of particular concern is the small number measurement, the repeat maltreatment for vulnerable adults measure, and the child support current support measure. The director reviewed what the concerns were and what the proposed changes are. The director noted that the Council has been very reluctant to approve Extenuating Circumstances claims from counties and that was concerning as well since it impacts small counties more than larger counties. The board discussed the options that counties have with regards to the measures and processes.
- L. Senior Spotlight Article:  
The director noted that the senior coordinator is back to putting articles in the paper whenever possible. The director will resume putting them in the board packet as they are published so the board is aware.
- M. Private Client Data:  
All pertinent data was discussed.

Commissioner Troy Johnson made a motion to adjourn seconded by Ken Johnson at 3:30 pm, MCU

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