

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
March 17, 2020

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held March 17, 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
Ashley Hokanson, Human Resources
Vicky Kloos, Lead Child Support Officer

Doyle Sperr called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. The director requested the addition of 7C, childcare variance request, 9J, union contract approval, and 9L, variance policy request. Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with those additions, seconded by Keith Swanson, MCU

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 18, 2020 and February 7, 2020 meetings were reviewed. Bill LaValley 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 Troy Johnson 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
County Based Purchasing.....Keith Swanson/Troy Johnson
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. **Memorandum of Understanding for Clinical Supervision for Treatment Coordination:**

The board reviewed the MOU with Nystrom and Associates to provide telehealth clinical supervision for treatment coordination once we get approved. This is a service for people with chemical dependency issues that is similar to case management. As is consistent with mental health targeted case management, this service requires clinical supervision. After review, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Keith Swanson, MCU

B. **Children's Mental Health Respite Grant:**

The board reviewed the grant for children's mental health respite. The director noted that we have been waiting for this since before the first of the year and have not been able to access these funds. After review and discussion, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve, seconded by Keith Swanson, MCU

C. **Childcare Variance Request:**

The director reviewed a request for a childcare variance. This is a direct result of schools being out right now because of COVID 19. The provider is asking for an infant variance but only because she is needing to move to a different license so she can take a school age sibling of a child in the daycare. Her infants are both turning one within the next 30 days and she has had both since they started daycare. After review and discussion, Keith Swanson made a motion to approve the variance, 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. In terms of individual case loads we are managing two maternity leaves at this time, so there are some temporarily higher caseloads.

B. **Legislative Update:**

The director indicated that the legislature is considering convening early because of COVID 19 and there may not be a lot of bills passed this session. The director reviewed some of the bills that MACSSA is watching and some that are of concern to counties.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Child Support Presentation:**

The lead child support officer gave a final presentation to the board on child support, what we do and what it entails. She reviewed numbers with them and pointed out that we have been high performers for the past decade. She is retiring on Friday and she thanked the county for allowing her to do this work. The board thanked her for doing important work for the county.

B. **Joint Board Meeting:**

The county attorney and human resources joined the board meeting to talk about the joint meeting that was held with Pope and the meeting that Pope County held two weeks ago that was a vote to keep moving forward with a vote of 3 to 2. The board expressed some unease about it not being unanimous but also recognized that there are a lot of questions still left to answer and it may get better as they do that. They also noted that they believe all the board members are professionals and are going to move forward together. The board agreed by consensus that they are all still on board with moving forward and they would await the next steps.

C. Case Management Reform:

The director gave the board a handout that she had just reviewed with some county commissioners at the request of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) explaining the history of case management reform and talked about where that reform is now. The director noted that county directors want to make sure that county boards are informed and aligned with the directors because this may likely be a difficult process as we move into the rate setting. The director reviewed the document and the recommendations of MACSSA. The board agreed that the direction MACSSA was going was appropriate and they were fine with the director’s continued work on this.

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 twenty children in placement. Seven 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. We did just place a sibling group of four this month, it has been very difficult to find a placement for those kids. Our daily costs are \$754.99. Our monthly cost was \$21,472.01. Commissioner Johnson talked about the status of some of our cases, he sits on the preplacement committee and is aware of the work being done on the cases.

E. Outside and Inside Window Cleaning:

The director indicated that the facilities manager had asked her to bring these quotes to the board because he is not in today. He is recommending that we approve both quotes, the price for exterior windows is \$450 and the price for all interior windows is the same. They are different vendors, the inside windows are our current cleaning people, which makes the data privacy piece easier. The external windows are an entity out of Alexandria. After review and discussion, Bill LaValley made a motion approving both bids, seconded by Keith Swanson, MCU

F. Child Protection State Measures 2019:

The director reviewed with the board all of the State measures that we need to meet for child protection, primarily those that have the potential for a financial penalty. The director reviewed all the measures and noted we met the State standard for all of them. The director talked about some of the barriers we face in meeting some of those measures and noted that we have exceptional staff who work really hard to serve kids.

G. February Financial:

The director reviewed the February financial reports with the board. Included in the financial reports are budget, collections, and current cash balances. We are 17% through the year and our revenues are at 21% and our expenses are at 18%, primarily due to the high amount of out of home placements.

H. Child Care Assistance Program Update:

The director indicated that we had finally started a waiting list for child care assistance. We have historically overspent and not worried about it too much because as long as there are leftover funds we don’t have to pay it back, and there have always been leftover funds. We are already projecting to spend at 130% for this year and there were less leftover funds last year because the larger counties have started to overspend as well. This means our chance of having to payback increases exponentially and we were not comfortable with that. The board generally agreed we should keep a waiting list and watch the overall state numbers.

I. Repayment for PrimeWest Procurement Appeal:

The board had asked for an update on the money we spent on this and if we had received a refund of the unspent funds yet. We did just get a refund check and letter outlining the expenses and refund this month. The director included it in the board packet for their information.

J. 2020-2021 Union Contract:

The county attorney and human resources presented the approved union contract for the social services union to the board for approval. They indicated that the group had already voted to approve it and that it did not deviate from the other contracts that were approved. There were questions and discussion and Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the contract as it was approved by the union, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

K. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed

L. Variance Policy Request:

The director presented the board with a proposed policy adaptation for childcare variances during the COVID 19 circumstances. Our current policy requires that all childcare variances be approved by the board. The time lag could be an issue for some people in this time, we need to be able to move quickly so that we can be responsive to the community’s needs. The proposed policy was reviewed by the county attorney. He recommended one change, which is that instead of needing to be approved by Grant County Social Services Administration with the consultation of the county attorney, he wanted it to specifically state the Grant County Director. The director indicated that she was fine with that and would be available throughout this to help make those decisions. The board did ask that the director send out an FYI e-mail if we approve any variances so board members know. After discussion, Dwight Walvatne made a motion to approve the policy with those stated changes, seconded by Dwight Walvatne, MCU

Chairman Doyle Sperr adjourned the meeting at 11:49am

