

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
May 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held May 18, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwight Walvatne
Bill LaValley
Doyle Sperr
Ken Johnson
Troy Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director

Dwight Walvatne called the meeting to order at 1:13 pm

Pledge of allegiance was done

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 20, 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 Bill LaValley 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
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. **Data Sharing Agreement:**

The director reviewed a triangular data sharing agreement between Grant, Pope, and Traverse County's for the purpose of case staffing and internal training and staffing. This is really to include Traverse since Pope and Grant have more inclusive language in our temporary joint power's agreement. The director reviewed different ways we would use this. After discussion, Doyle Sperr made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Ken Johnson, MCU

B. **Douglas County Fraud Prevention Intervention (FPI) Agreement:**

The director reviewed the FPI process with the board. The state funds this position on a regional basis that they define and assign each county to. Douglas County hosts the position that serves Grant County so we need to enter into an agreement with Douglas County to receive this service. It is 100% state funded with no levy dollars from any of the counties. After review, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Ken Johnson, MCU

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Case Counts:**

The director reviewed all of the cases counts and noted the increases and decreases. Our child protection intakes and cases are holding steady. We are continuing to see modest increases in medical cases and we will start doing reviews on cash assistance and SNAP in May for June. We may see our numbers start to go down and normalize in those areas once that gets underway.

B. **Legislative Update:**

The director reviewed MACSSA's legislative update and highlighted the things of particular importance or impact for small counties. The Governor has reached a budget deal with the House and Senate, and one of the things included in there was \$70 million for broadband, which should be good for greater MN.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Human Services Performance Management Report 1 for 2021:**

The director reviewed the first two measures and report that we got for the HSPM performance measures. The first report has two measures. The first measure is the percent of SNAP and cash assistance processed timely. The State threshold is 75%. Grant County had 100% for this measure, out of 107 processed applications. That is above the threshold as well as above the state average of 93.8% and the regional average of 95.7%. We generally perform well as a region and we have consistently performed well in this as a county. The second measure is the percent of expedited SNAP applications processed within one business day. The director noted that this measure of one day is different than statute which allows five business days. The State threshold for this is 55%. Grant County met this measure with 74.9%, which is above the state average of 48.6% and the regional average of 66.8%. This was a greater struggle in 2020 with COVID since people dropped everything off remotely and we could not stop them and ask them for more information or ask clarifying questions, or even do immediate phone interviews if we realized someone was eligible for this even if they did not apply for it. All of those things are barriers. Our staff have done a great job at meeting these measures and recognizing that these are things that are important to the ongoing wellbeing of people in our county.

B. **Statewide Survey of Office Openings:**

The director reviewed with the board the Statewide survey that showed which human services offices were open and what services were being provided in person and what was remote, as of March of this year. The director noted that many counties, like us, are starting to or have come back into the office full time in recent weeks.

- C. Regional Fraud Prevention Grant:
The director shared a letter from our current fraud prevention person is going to be leaving the program. Douglas County is looking for another one and they are planning to continue using a deputy from the Sheriff's department.
- D. Placement Data:
The director reviewed the out of home placements with the board. We have 19 children in placement from twelve families, with thirteen kids who are State wards, pending adoption, and three children placed under 260D for their own disabilities. The director noted that we have adopted two kids out in early May and have another one scheduled for May. We have two adoption placement agreements waiting at the State, one since March 31st and one since the middle of April.
- E. April Financial Report:
The director reviewed the financial report with the board. We are 33% of the way through the year and our revenues are at 29% and our expenses are at 30%. We are slightly over budget in out of home placements since we have so many kids waiting for adoption. Our cash balance is up \$24,110 from this time last year. The reality is that it really depends on our expenses from year to year and when we receive certain revenues, which can vary.
- F. Joint Board Meetings:
The director asked the board if there were any questions and reviewed what the upcoming decision points will be.
- G. Traverse Board Update:
The director told the board that the Traverse Board voted today unanimously to pursue a longer-term contract with our current arrangement. The board noted that the future agreement would need to be with Western Prairie and asked the director to bring it to their next meeting.
- H. Child Support in 2022:
The director reminded the board of our past discussion with the county attorney regarding the child support cases that are currently in the county attorney's office. We have previously decided that we would end this arrangement at the end of 2021. The director is wondering if the board would like to send a formal notice of this to the county attorney or have documented in some manner the decision and timing of the decision we have made. The director needs to start to plan and our child support staff need to start planning what to do with those approximately 100 cases. The board asked the director to contact the county attorney and see what his preference is and follow up with the board next month.
- I. Public FAQ, draft:
The director briefly went over the FAQ for the public that the director is bringing to the joint powers board in June.
- J. Child Care Assistance Data:
The director reviewed our 2021 use of our child care assistance grant so far. We are currently slated to spend about 44% of our allocation this year. We do have families to add to the waiting list but we are waiting for the legislative session to be complete to see if they re-prioritize the waiting list for CCAP. We are hoping they will do that, and if they do we will move three families from our waiting list.
- K. PrimeWest Health Equity Council:
The director talked with the board about her agreement to participate in the health equity council on behalf of county directors in this region. The director included literature that explained the goal and reason for this as well as some overall information on PrimeWest.
- L. Updated Application and Enrollment Data:
The director reviewed the number of cases that we are processing for medical assistance over the past few years. DHS looks at cases from two different perspectives, one being the county of service and the number of beneficiaries by county of financial responsibility. The director explained that county of service is really about those who are placed here in excluded time, like nursing facilities and group homes, that we serve but are not our financial responsibility. For beneficiaries we had 1,432 county beneficiaries in January of 2019, 1,411 in January of 2020, 1,545 in January of 2021 and 1,556 in May of 2021. For county of service we had 1,404 in January of 2019, 1,432 in January of 2020, 1,584 in January of 2021, and 1,596 in May of 2021. County of service cases are ones that our workers complete.
- M. Private Client Data:
All pertinent data was discussed.
- N. Building Use:
The director talked with the board about a request to use this building by the general public after hours and we discussed what our answer should be as well as what our general policy is on this. After discussion, Ken Johnson made a motion to continue to follow the current rules of allowing the public here after hours only with a staff but to revisit the entire process and policy in the June meeting, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm
