

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
May 19, 2020

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held May 19, 2020.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwight Walvatne
Bill LaValley
Troy Johnson
Doyle Sperr
Keith Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director
Justin Anderson, Grant County Attorney
Jennifer Albjerg, Fiscal Manager

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. After review and an addition of 9M, Hiring, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Keith Swanson, MCU

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 20, 2020 meeting was reviewed. Keith Swanson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Troy Johnson, 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 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. **Housing Support Application-Stevens Home:**

The board reviewed the request from an adult foster home to renew their housing supports agreement. The director explained that the amount is set by the State and there is no approval for any supplemental amount in the application. Housing supports are paid through the State after the county determines eligibility for the recipient. After review, Keith Swanson made a motion to approve, seconded by Troy Johnson, MCU

B. **Housing Support Application-Newberry:**

The board reviewed an application for an adult waiver care foster home to renew their housing supports agreement. The same conditions and rates apply in both applications reviewed today. After review, Keith Swanson made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Case Counts:**

The Director reviewed the case counts with the Board. The director indicated that our child protection numbers are about the same as last month, still down for child and adult protection. The rest of our caseloads are stable and our financial programs are starting to get a little higher.

B. **Legislative Update:**

The director reviewed the legislative update in detail with the board talking about how it impacts county human services agencies.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Letter Re: Fiscal Operations:**

The director reviewed the letter we received from the Department of Human Services acknowledging the fiscal department for getting all quarterly reports in on time each quarter in 2019. The director noted that this often requires fiscal seeking and getting additional information from outside sources and inside sources and it takes a concerted effort to do this. The board asked that the director thank the fiscal staff and noted how well they have done for this year and the past several years.

B. **Federal and State COVID Waivers:**

The director gave some updates on areas that had been unclear in April. The director also talked about the background checks for IV-E facilities and the work we are doing with the State to ensure there is a Federal waiver in place so we do not lose out on IV-E funding. The director reviewed briefly the end dates for waivers. The State waivers end when the State Peacetime Emergency ends and the federal waivers end when the Federal Emergency Declaration ends.

C. **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) numbers:**

The director gave an update from last month, we now have 5 families on our waiting list and we are overspending at a significant rate. We cannot help the over spending since the waivers in place are compelling us to pay for more absent days than normal, pay two providers at times, and pay for school age children for far longer than we budgeted. We still have not heard if the State is going to add money to this, but they are aware that it is a need throughout the State.

D. **Placement Data:**

The director reviewed the out of home placements with the board. We have 20 children in placement, with 4 of them being on trial home visits and one being in treatment with their parent so we are not paying for those 5 placements. We are ready for permanency for seven of those children, but are waiting for DHS to get us the paperwork we need, for the court to schedule adoption hearings, and for the Interstate Compact Placement Agreement (ICPC) process for two kids who are supposed to go to Washington State to be adopted by their uncle. COVID 19 has caused delays in all of this. Our daily costs are \$835.22. Our monthly cost was \$23,421.19. 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. 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 22% and our expenses are at 33%. We are over budget still in many child protection areas of the budget, even with the increases we made to the budget last year.

F. Human Services Performance Management Report (HSPM):

The director reviewed the first report of the year for our HSPM performance measures. The measures are Cash and SNAP assistance timeliness of processing as well as expedited SNAP processing. The performance threshold for the percent of SNAP and Cash Assistance Applications processed timely is 75%. The State average for 2019 was 93.3%, our regional average was 93.4%, and Grant County's performance was 97.8%. The second measure is the percent of expedited SNAP applications processed within one business day. The performance threshold for this is 55%. The State average for 2019 is 69.6%, the regional performance average is 78.3%, and Grant County's performance is 91.4%. The eligibility supervisor and her staff have done an exceptional job and frequently perform among the highest in the region and the State. We are fortunate to have the experience we have working with us. The board asked that the director thank the staff for their hard work.

G. Proposed Transition Committees:

The director reviewed the committees that have been set up for the merge conversation with Pope County. Last month the board reviewed the committees and indicated that the Chair could assign people to the committees. The board also indicated they felt 2 board members per committee was appropriate. The director gave them the form filled out by Pope County and by the board chair. She indicated that they could expect to see contact coming within the next month or so from Duane Krautbauer, who will be doing project management for us, to start setting up those meetings.

H. Re-Opening for Human Services:

The director reviewed a document she gave the board outlining how the staff in human services are managing contacts with the building closed and what her recommendations are going forward. The board reviewed it and indicated they would be deciding if they are re-opening in the afternoon meeting.

I. Pope/Grant Merge:

The director and county attorney reviewed where we are in the process of the merge with Pope County and talked about what processes should be in place now and in the event that anyone else is interested in joining. The board indicated that they wanted to make sure whatever they do that they and the Pope County board are communicating and are aligned about process and structure.

J. Year End Fiscal Presentation:

The fiscal manager presented to the board on the year end numbers after a full reconciliation for the past three years. She gave the board information on the difference between looking at our funding on a cash basis and an accrual basis. As we were running short on time the director offered to bring this back in June as well. There seemed to be some interest in that, so they have more time for questions.

K. Child Support and stimulus checks:

The director explained to the board that the stimulus checks have been handled by the federal government a little differently than tax returns in terms of capturing them to go towards arrears. There are two different kinds of arrears, that which goes to the custodial parent (CP) and that which is public assistance (PA) arrears and goes to the State. With tax returns the arrears goes toward the CP first and then if there is leftover it goes toward PA if there are any. For some reason with the stimulus check it was done the opposite way, going to PA first and then to CP if there is any leftover. We didn't make that decision and have no ability to control that. We have had some custodial parents who are upset as well as some non-custodial parents who are angry, we have simply explained that this is not within our ability to control. The director wanted the board to know in case they get any calls or questions on it. They can send any concerns to the director, but she wanted the board to have some context for the calls if they receive them.

L. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed

M. Hiring Additional Eligibility Worker:

Last fall when our fourth eligibility worker left we chose not to hire because our case loads were lower. There are a variety of changes that have occurred since that time and the director will be going to the personnel committee asking if we can fill that vacant position. It is already in the budget so it should not be a financial issue, but the director wanted the board to be aware in case they had any questions. There was discussion and some questions and the board directed the director to go to the personnel committee for a final decision.

Chairman Doyle Sperr adjourned the meeting at 12:03pm
