

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
June 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held June 15, 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 12:53 pm

Pledge of allegiance was done

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 18, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Bill LaValley 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 Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Ken 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. GRH Housing Contracts:

The Board determined that it would be appropriate to put all of these in one motion rather than doing them separately. The director reviewed the Housing Support Agreements for the following entities for the State fiscal year 2021/2022:

1. Housing Support Agreement: Ashby Living Center
2. Housing Support Agreement: MSOCS
3. Housing Support Agreement: REM Central Lakes Inc
4. Housing Support Agreement: Prairie Community Services
5. Housing Support Agreement: Barrett Assisted Living
6. Housing Support Agreement: Hoffman Senior Living
7. Housing Support Agreement: WCMCA
8. Housing Support Agreement: Steven's Home Plus
9. Housing Support Agreement: Richard Newberry

After discussion of the different types of facilities and reviewing the rates for the agreements, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the agreements, seconded by Doyle Sperr, 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 have started doing reviews on cash assistance and SNAP for June. This has caused our numbers in those areas to start to decrease a little for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

B. Legislative Update:

The director reviewed MACSSA's legislative update and indicated that the Department of Human Services is beginning to prepare for a shut down since we are reaching the June 30th deadline and the legislature does not have a budget for all 12 State Departments. Without a budget passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor all State services will shut down on July 1st. The last State shutdown was in 2011 and this one will have some differences. In 2011 Hennepin County sued the State and the Supreme Court of Minnesota appointed a Special Master to determine what was essential and what would stay open even in a shut down. About 80% of human services were deemed essential. The MN Supreme Court has since determined they do not have the authority to authorize spending without a budget so it will be a complete shutdown if a budget is not passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Follow up on Child Support:

The director spoke with the county attorney about the current child support cases that are housed in his office and asked what his preference was in terms of giving notice and making it formally known that those cases will be coming to Western Prairie Human Services January 1, 2022. The county attorney indicated that he would provide written notice to the county that his office will no longer be providing those services after December 31, 2021.

B. Grant County Offices Meeting Room Usage:

The director reviewed the current policy on after-hours conference room reservation guidelines. They've been in place since the building opened and we continue to have requests for public use of this building. The board debated if we should allow the public to use the building without a county employee there and worried about things like what we do if property is destroyed, use of the technology that we keep in the room or if the conference room is left dirty. The director talked about how we could lock the computer in a closet and reminded the board that the building was actually designed to be used by the public and there can be access to only the large conference room, lobby, and public bathrooms without any problem. The board continued to debate what the process would look like and if the county would have any liability in it. The director indicated she could talk about their concerns with the county attorney and ask if he could come in July and address their concerns. The board agreed to that plan.

C. Productive Alternative Newsletter:

The director shared Productive Alternative's newsletter for their Hoffman Site, opened this spring in the DAC building in Hoffman. The director indicated that our case managers have been so pleased with the increased employment services we've been able to offer to people with disabilities as well as the new day program. We have more people utilizing the space than before, we are utilizing local resources like Rainbow Rider more because we have more people, and the staff are in the local and surrounding communities with the people we serve. They have visited the Elbow Lake Library, Brophy Park, the Dalton Community Center, and have gone to Glenwood, Runestone Park, and Henning Sculpture Park for picnics. The case managers, vendors, and guardians have all expressed their happiness with the increased and new services that are being provided.

D. Placement Data:

The director reviewed the May out of home placements with the board. We have 28 children in placement, the highest that we've had within the director's time. We did finalize 3 adoptions and reunify a child with her mother out of state. We currently have five adoptions and one transfer of custody that are in the final stages and we hope to finalize by the fall. We have three children placed through the waiver and one child placed in a PRTF (psychiatric residential treatment facility). We have 2 sibling groups of four where we have had to vacate another county's permanent placement and start over again. One of those groups we are seeking an adoptive home for, one we are just in the beginning phase of vacating the order. Those get complicated since they include other court jurisdictions. We also have two sibling groups of two that were just placed and are in the reunification process. The director talked about her concern about the sibling groups, the time it is taking us to find permanency for kids, and the time it is taking to get documents back from the State to finalize adoptions. The board discussed and reviewed the cases.

E. May Financial Report:

The director reviewed the financial report with the board. We are 42% of the way through the year and our revenues are at 43% and our expenses are at 38%. We are slightly over budget in out of home placements and over revenue for collection of out of home placement. Those funds are primarily a redirection of child support and social security for our waived kids in placement. Our cash balance is up \$99,541 from this time last year.

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 updated the board on the status of the contract.

H. Fingerprint Updates:

The director told the board that DHS has went with a new vendors for fingerprints and our machine will no longer work once they finalize that process. The director wasn't sure what would happen with all of the fingerprints that were entered into Net Study during the pandemic that still need to be processed. DHS hasn't made final plans about how those will be handled. The new vendor guaranteed in their proposal that there would be a fingerprint station within 35 miles of anyone in the State. We have yet to see their plan for that or locations, but it is not their intention to use government entities. The new machines cost \$20,000 so it would not be in our plans to get a new one regardless.

I. 2018-2021 MA Collections Data:

The director reviewed the medical assistance collection data for the State, county by county.

J. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm
