

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
July 20, 2021

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held July 20, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwight Walvatne
Bill LaValley
Doyle Sperr
Ken Johnson
Troy Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director
Ann Stehn, Horizon, Public Health Director
Robert Larsen, Veteran Service Officer
Katie Ennen, Social Worker
Phyllis Reller, Social Services Supervisor
Ashley Hokanson, Human Resources
Jeff Merrick, Facility/Maintenance Supervisor

Dwight Walvatne called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 June 15, 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 Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Bill LaValley, 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. **Humbled Acres Adult Foster Care Housing Contracts:**

The director reviewed the Housing Support Agreements for a new provider, Humbled Acres, for the State fiscal year 2021/2022 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 in most areas.

B. **Legislative Update:**

The director reviewed the draft of the final legislative actions taken this session. The director reviewed items of particular interest to Grant County and risk for future cost shifts.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Recognition for Grant County Veterans Service Officer:**

The social services director, social services supervisor, and senior coordinator/adult protection social worker requested that the board present the Grant County Veterans Service Officer with a certificate of appreciation. The supervisor and social worker talked about a specific case that we have worked on together as well as other things that he has done that has positively impacted people served by our agency and throughout the county. The certificate was read out loud and the board presented a signed copy of the certificate to him and thanked him for his service.

B. **Grant County Offices Meeting Room Usage:**

The director indicated that she had talked to the county attorney and he had not expressed any significant concerns with adapting our policy to allow civic organizations to use the building after hours without a staff present. The board had a lot of questions about it and after discussion it was tabled until next month when the county attorney could be present.

C. **Placement Data:**

The director reviewed the June out of home placements with the board. For June we have 28 children in placement from 16 families. We have finalized 3 adoptions and reunify a child with her mother out of state and have 4 adoptions that should be done soon and one transfer to a relative that should be done soon, hopefully by the end of the summer. 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. We did place two kids yesterday and continue to have more on the list. Parental Drug usage continues to be the highest cause of placement for us.

D. **June Financial Report:**

We are 50% of the way through the year but we have not received our first half of taxes yet so that impacts our bottom line. At this point in the year our expenses are at 45% and our revenues are at 49%. Out of home placements are slightly over budget and our collections department has collected \$66,515 so far this year, with \$28,999 being the county's share to keep.

E. Joint Powers Board Update:

The director reviewed two issues that have come up a few times with the board again, in anticipation of the permanent JPA being considered in August. The board had questions and talked about some of the details of the merger but no request for changes. They asked when the director would be bringing the JPA to the Pope Board. The director indicated she hoped to do that the first meeting in August and the board asked that they review and approve it the same day. They were comfortable with the county attorney bringing it to the board for signature.

F. Traverse Update:

The director gave the board a document she shared with the Traverse board regarding the contracted services and amounts for next year. The handout had the scope of the contract, not actual dollar amounts. The director indicated she thought the amount would be pretty similar to last years. The board indicated they were fine with the direction and told the director to continue developing it.

G. Public Health Discussion:

The director of Horizon public Health attended the meeting and the board discussed office space with her. The board discussed wanting to take two offices in that corner of the building that they see as being empty and allocating them to Land Management. The public health director indicated that she wants to be a good team player but that she has concerns about them not having enough space for traveling nurses and if they hired a staff who wanted to be housed out of this office. The board and public health director went and toured the space and talked about it and the board told the public health director they would notify her of their decision.

H. 2022 Fiscal Allocations:

The director reviewed Grant County's financial allocations for 2022 as well as our ongoing expenses in areas like out of home placement and child protection services. The board reviewed it and asked questions.

I. County Credit Card for Fiscal Manager:

The director requested that the board approve a county credit card for the fiscal manager with a limit of \$3,000. This is what the previous fiscal manager's was because it is the credit card used by Region IV South, for whom we are the fiscal host. After discussion Troy Johnson made a motion approving a credit card for the fiscal manager with a limit of \$3,000, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

J. Area Agency on Aging 2022 funding match:

The director gave the board our funding match for the area agency on aging. For 2022 it is \$1,501, an increase of \$53 from last year. The board reviewed it and had no problem with this. It will be budgeted so a vote isn't necessary.

K. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed.

L. Wilkin Contract:

The director discussed the status of our current contract with Wilkin County and discussed if we should maintain that contract and move it to Western Prairie or if we should terminate. The board discussed it and talked about terminating immediately, with whatever notice is listed in the contract. The director recommended waiting and finishing out the year. After discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to terminate the contract with a 90 day notice, seconded by Ken Johnson. Commissioners Ken Johnson, Troy Johnson, Dwight Walvatne, and Doyle Sperr voted in favor of the motion with Bill LaValley opposing.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm
