

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
July 21, 2020

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held July 21, 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
Ashley Hokanson, Human Resources
Jeff Merrick, Facility Manager

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

Pledge of allegiance was done

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 16th, 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 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

CONTRACTS

A. Rainbow Rider JPA Changes:

The board reviewed the changes made to the Rainbow Rider Joint Powers Agreement. The director was told when she received it that it had already been reviewed and approved by the county attorneys. The director sent this to the county attorney to confirm that and he confirmed that he was aware of the changes and was fine with those changes. After review, Keith Swanson made a motion to approve the JPA, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

B. Housing Support Application-Prairie Community Services:

C. Housing Support Agreement: Barrett WCMCA:

After reviewing the last two applications it was agreed that one motion could approve them all. Grant County does not do a supplemental rate beyond what the State approves and pays so all agreements are the same. After review and discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve agreements B and C on the agenda, seconded by Keith Swanson, MCU

OLD BUSINESS

A. Case Counts:

The Director reviewed the case counts with the Board. Our child protection intake numbers are down after a month of going back up a little, the adult protection intakes remain alarmingly low. We are busy in all program areas dealing with the changes that are occurring and trying to help the people we serve navigate through them as well. We continue to see our economic support programs trending up, which isn't surprising for us in times like this. Our family cash programs are higher than they have been in over two years, with 30 active cases.

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. CARES Act and/or FEMA funding for social services:

The director talked with the board about the expenses that social services has already expended related to COVID and a list of technology purchases that social services would like the board to consider purchasing. The director went over the list with the board and gave them cost estimates that we were able to put together on short notice. The board asked the director to get firm quotes and bring it back and they would consider it, along with the requests and needs of the rest of the county.

B. 2021 Grant/Program Allocations and TCM Rates:

The director gave the board information that we have prepared as we have started to develop our budget. Our 2021 allocations specifically related to certain programs or grant dollars is just over \$500,000 for 2021. It is slightly higher than last year, but we already know that our Opioid Allocation has just been cut, before even getting the first allocation. The director also reviewed the cost of main expenses for 2017-2019 and the first half of 2020. Our out of home placement costs are projected to surpass \$270,000 this year, a high we have not reached since before 2017. We reviewed other expenses as well, including county burials, detox, and service contracts. The director also reviewed our targeted case management rates and revenues from 2017-the first half of 2020. Our revenues are up for the year and our rates have remained steady or increased. The director indicated that it will be a tough budget year in 2021 primarily because of our out of home placement numbers and the ancillary services that go with child protection.

C. Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) numbers:

The director gave another update on this, the board has requested to be kept apprised of this every month since we are significantly over spending this State grant. The director noted that our numbers are still projected to be way over our allocation. We are projected to spend 186.1% of our allocation, which is \$38,882 over our allocation. This is largely due to the COVID waivers and increased time where kids were not in school. As of right now it appears that the State as a whole is not overspending. If that continues the State will pay the overage, so we will continue to watch it closely. We currently have 6 families on the waiting list.

D. Placement Data:

The director reviewed the out of home placements with the board. We have 18 children in placement, with 4 of them being on trial home visits. We are ready for permanency for seven of those children, but are waiting for DHS to get us the paperwork we need and for the court to schedule adoption hearings. We did finally get the ICPC for our kids that need to go to Washington State and are arranging for their transport. Our sibling group of 4 that has been separated are going to be moving to a home together, but at greater cost because the only home willing to take them all is a therapeutic foster home. They are willing to be considered as a permanency resource for the kids if we reach that point, which we believe we will. One of our largest cost placements just moved to a foster home and we are looking at a pre-adoptive home. Our daily costs are \$618.47. Our monthly cost was \$18,554.36. 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. June Financial Report:

The director reviewed the financial report with the board. We are 50% of the way through the year and our revenues are at 49% and our expenses are at 49%. We are significantly over budget in out of home placements and the services that go alongside reunification. We are down in our cash balance from this time last year, the director reviewed some of the potential reasons for that with the board.

F. Senior Spotlight Report 6-30:

The director gave the board the senior spotlight review article for review. They are completed by our senior coordinator.

G. Fraud Prevention Program Numbers:

The director reviewed the 2019 and first half of 2020 numbers for our fraud prevention program that is funded by the State and run out of Douglas County. The goal is to investigate potential fraud of our public assistance program and allow us to disqualify and seek repayment for people who are not in compliance with the requirements of the program. In 2019 for our region there were 131 cases completed which resulted in 23 disqualifications from programs and a total savings of \$218,194. So far in 2020 there have been 102 cases and 29 disqualifications with a total savings/overpayment of \$280,425. We are pleased with the program, it is staffed out of the Douglas County Sheriff's office.

H. Building Request:

The director, HR director, county attorney, and facilities manager presented a request to the board to go out for bids for our cleaning contract. We have now finished our first year in the building and know that there are things we would want to change about our contract, both related to duties and to the unexpected issues that presented themselves this year with COVID. The board reviewed the request and after review, Troy Johnson made a motion to go out for proposals for a cleaning contract, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

I. Request from Traverse County:

The director, human resources director, and county attorney reviewed the letter from the Traverse County board asking if we are interested in sharing a director next year when theirs retires. The letter requests a 50/50 split. The director notes that a 50/50 split simply isn't possible with the other commitments that we have with Pope County. The board has already indicated that our priority is the current arrangement and process with Pope County. We discussed our current relationship with Traverse County and all the services that we already do for them in the social services area. The director noted that it would be hard for our supervisors to work with another director on those programs. The county attorney and director indicated that we had discussed this letter and request with the joint personnel committee that we have set up with Pope/Grant. The Pope County representative understood the position we are in related to the services we currently provide there, and simply the need to Traverse County to have stability and consistent services. After discussion they agreed that it would seem appropriate if Grant County would offer some kind of 1 year interim transition for Traverse County. This would include administrative help which includes some of the directors' time but also includes the social services supervisors time as well. The County Attorney and HR director reviewed the options the board has and recommended that the board allow the county attorney to send a letter to Traverse County indicating we are open to talking with their personnel committee about offering interim assistance. After discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion authorizing the county attorney to engage in discussion with Traverse County regarding interim assistance for 2021, seconded by Dwight Walvatne, MCU

J. Update on Merger Committees:

The director, HR director and county attorney updated the board on the committees related to the merger that started in July. The director indicated that we would need to change Commissioner Johnson's committees because of the schedule. The board chair indicated that Commissioner Johnson would be moved to the communications committee and Commissioner LaValley would move to the technology committee.

K. Press Release, Merger:

The director indicated that the communications committee believes it is time to put out a press release in both counties letting the public know what we are doing so we are being transparent and can address any concerns people may have. The director was tasked with writing it in coordination with the Pope County Coordinator. It is scheduled to go to the Pope County board in August and the director asked if the Grant County board wanted to wait until August 18th to approve it before it was submitted or if they were comfortable with another process. After discussion the board decided by consensus that the press release should be approved by the county attorney and sent out to the commissioners for them to review prior to it being submitted to either paper.

L. Opiate Allocation Decrease:

The director indicated that the State had decreased our opioid allocation because they collected less fees from the pharmaceutical companies than expected. Some refused to pay the fee, some decided not to provide services in MN and some have indicated that it is a hardship with COVID. The director shared with the board the information we received regarding the decrease and indicated she would send out an exact amount of the decrease when she gets it from the State.

M. Grant County DAC:

The director was asked last month if we had an update on the re-opening of the Grant County DAC so the director put it on the agenda to update the board. The director indicated that they are talking about opening up soon and are supposed to create a re-opening plan. We are asking for a copy of the plan prior to it re-opening so we can answer any questions we may get from providers or the State.

N. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed

Chairman Doyle Sperr adjourned the meeting at 11:51am
