

GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
September 21, 2021

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held September 21, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwight Walvatne
Bill LaValley
Doyle Sperr
Ken Johnson
Troy Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director
Justin Anderson, County Attorney
Ashley Hokanson, Human Resources
Chris Rylander, Fiscal Manager

Dwight Walvatne called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm

Pledge of allegiance was done

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. The director indicated that HR asked if we could add 9N, Cleaning Contract Addendum. After review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

MINUTES: The minutes of the August 17, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Doyle Sperr 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 Doyle Sperr 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. Transportation Agreement with West Central Schools:

The director reviewed the proposed contract from the West Central School District for transportation of foster children. The board discussed the agreement in front of them and didn't feel it pertained directly to them. The signature page only requires signature of the bus company and the school. They did not feel they could approve a contract that did not pertain to them but understood that the school needs an agreement from us before they can draw down federal funds. After discussion, Ken Johnson made a motion to approve the rates and process for the transportation of foster children to enable the school to draw down federal funds, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

B. Minnesota Family Investment Biennial Plan (MFIP):

The director explained that we have to submit a plan to draw down our State MFIP funds that addresses the budget and the employment services portion of the plan. The director noted that the State will not allow us to do a joint plan for this so we will need to redo this in January for Western Prairie. The director noted that there is a statement on our website letting anyone who is interested in reviewing the plan know that they can come in and get it. This is required and something we always do. After review Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Troy 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 are down some, likely because of the time of the year. We discussed the ongoing hiring and staffing issues we are having for child protection and the director noted that there are simply not enough people for the jobs.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Wilkin County Contract:

The director gave the board a copy of the contract termination notice sent to Wilkin County. The director has talked with their director and we will help train if they decide to hire.

B. Childcare Recruitment:

The director gave the board a proposal from our licensor and supervisor about suggestions for using the federal dollars to recruit childcare. Their plan also includes providing incentives to our current providers and providing a role for more experienced providers. The proposal is a starting point since we are still exploring more options. The director reviewed the plan with the board and the board discussed approving it now versus waiting for the joint board. These funds will need to be audited independently and tracked by county anyway so that wouldn't create a problem. After discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve spending up to \$44,400 for childcare recruitment over the next two years, using the American Recovery Act dollars, seconded by Bill LaValley, MCU

C. Placement Data:

The director reviewed the August out of home placements with the board. For August we have 29 children in placement from 16 families. We have completed four adoptions and have a trial on a transfer of custody to family in early October, and we believe custody will be transferred then. We have moved the third sibling out of state with their other siblings and will file the final adoption papers as soon as the appeal is over. We have three children in placement for their disability, which we pay nothing or little for, and one child on a temporary home visit so we are not paying for that either. Of our two large sibling groups we have one that we are working on an Interstate Compact for and one that is meeting an adoptive family this month. While our numbers are high we seem to be moving in a most positive direction, we have some that look to be reunifying soon as well. The director noted that in August out of home placements cost us \$44,143.05.

D. August Financial Report:

We are 67% of the way through the year. At this point in the year our expenses are at 60% and our revenues are showing 69%. Overall we appear to be on track with the exception of out of home placements. Our fund balance is on track compared to last year and our collections are up from last year. As we collect more for out of home placements we keep 100% of that so our revenue will go up.

- E. Joint Powers Board Update:
The director reviewed with the board what is coming in the October joint board meeting.
- F. Personnel Committee:
The county attorney and human resources joined our meeting to talk with the board about the recent personnel committee meetings. They discussed the director's salary. The personnel committee began looking at this when the director took on all the director duties for Traverse County, a contract which the county collects \$45,000 for. The director noted that with this contract she takes on all board meetings, committee meetings, staff issues, and program issues. The county attorney explained what has been done with the director's salary when Pope County was added and noted that should all be rolled into one when Western Prairie is created. The personnel committee recommended adding \$5,000 to the director's salary for her Traverse County duties, retroactive to January 1, 2021. The board discussed what the process has been and how to move forward with this. After discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve adding \$5,000 to the director's salary retroactive to January 1, 2021 for the additional duties taken on, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU.
- G. Fingerprinting Changes:
The director noted that we are no longer a fingerprint site for Net Study since the State has moved to another vendor. The director reviewed the current status of providers and noted that there are not providers within 30 miles of our entire county at this time, and even if there is in the future there are no providers in our county. The board discussed this.
- H. HSPM Summary and Talking Points:
The director was asked by the board last month to provide some talking points and an overview of the concerns she expressed at the last meeting and did that. The director talked about the potential solutions and gave data on the counties that do have program improvement plans. The board asked questions and took the information.
- I. Productive Alternative/DAC update:
The director explained to the board that Productive Alternatives (PAI) was having a hard time getting any permanent agreement out of the DAC staff and board chair. They were unclear who remains on the board but indicated that the initial agreement was that they would purchase or get the building after a year's lease. They cannot get the current DAC to make a commitment and they are concerned about how we are going to provide services in our counties. The director reiterated how pleased we have been with the services being provided by PAI and indicated that our staff and group homes are as well. Jeopardizing these services also jeopardizes our foster homes, which leads to employment in our county and other trickle-down effects. The board discussed this and indicated they would like to do whatever possible to support PAI and do what they can to keep the services in our county. The board agreed that the director should have the county attorney write a letter to the DAC board letting them know that we will do whatever is within our ability to keep this service in our county and to ensure that the people we serve with disabilities have what they need.
- J. MACSSA 2022 Legislative Priorities:
The director gave the board the document shared at the AMC Policy Conference to move forward. The director gave the board a document to review those four priorities and talked about them with the board. Our priorities are targeted case management county rate setting, county-based purchasing procurement, Family First, and our position that the county share should be removed from the Behavioral Health Fund. The board reviewed it and discussed it and the impacts of these items on us.
- K. 2022 Western Prairie Budget:
The director and fiscal manager reviewed the 2022 budget request. The director noted that she has spoken with the County Auditor and two items that we had budgeted for, IT Services and County Attorney costs, were in our budget as expenses but not theirs as revenue. That should be corrected by now. The board asked about the federal indirect dollars the county has previously gotten for the work they do for human services and what happens to that money, it is \$55,000. The director indicated she had calls out to Dennis Pond and the other joint agencies to look into that and would let the board know when she knew more, definitely before the final levy is set by the board.
- L. Traverse County Contract:
The director let the board know that things are going well and as far as she knows the Traverse Board is satisfied with the services they are receiving. The Board agreed that in their conversations with the Traverse County board they seem to feel things are going well.
- M. Private Client Data:
All pertinent data was discussed.
- N. Cleaning Contract Addendum:
The county attorney and human resources director reviewed an addendum to the cleaning contract to address the change in services with the board closing the land management building. They noted that they did have to increase the contractual amount for this building to address the additional space being used. Currently, every office in this building is assigned and all county offices are in full time use. Public Health is using theirs in accordance with their COVID process and policy. The addendum changes the contract from \$5,000 per month to \$4,767 per month. After discussion and review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Troy Johnson, MCU

The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm
