

**GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**  
**November 16, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Grant County Human Services Board was held November 16, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dwight Walvatne (until 3pm)  
Bill LaValley  
Ken Johnson  
Troy Johnson  
Doyle Sperr

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director  
Phyllis Reller, Social Services Supervisor

Dwight Walvatne called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm

**Pledge of allegiance was done**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was reviewed and the director requested that 9M, DAC/PAI be added. After review, Bill LaValley made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 16, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ken 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 Troy 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. **Child Foster Care Variance Request:**

The director reviewed the request for a foster care license capacity variance for a local foster home who is willing to take a sibling group of three until they can move to Indiana to be with a relative. The director noted that none of the youngest child is nine years old and the provider's child is 17 and will be 18 in March. The variance request is for 90 days but will likely only be needed for 30 days since the children are going to Indiana. After discussion, Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the variance, seconded by Bill LaValley, 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 adult protection intakes account for most of the increases in numbers.

B. **2022 Legislative Items:**

The director talked with the board about some ongoing priorities for counties that the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA) are working on. The director talked about the safety net for adults and children with complex needs who need services, out of home placement, or a hospital bed and the inability to find any for people with complex needs. The director talked about how this impacts us and the people we serve.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Human Services Performance Management (HSPM) Report:**

The director talked with the board about the most recent HSPM report on adult protection and child support. The director also noted that there is a new measure for adult protection and went over it with the board. The director indicated that we met all five measures and do not have any performance improvement plan or extenuating circumstance request for Grant County. The director noted that we have had extenuating circumstances requests approved for the past two years on the adult protection measure and talked about how difficult it is to meet that measure of 90% when you only have four cases.

B. **Human Services Performance Management Small Numbers:**

The director reminded that board that she and the deputy director have been working with DHS to make the HSPM equitable for counties with small numbers as well. The director reviewed a document from DHS outlining their suggested changes in this area.

C. **Placement Data:**

The director reviewed the October out of home placements with the board. For October we have 25 children in placement from 16 families. We have transferred custody with one kid and have two cases that we're looking to reunify and/or dismiss before the end of the year. We have moved a sibling group of three to an adoptive home and will be moving our sibling group of four to relatives with the goal of permanency. We have a child in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) who is likely coming home soon, an adoption that is almost complete and a termination filed on two more cases. The director noted that in October out of home placements cost \$42,867.24.

D. **October Financial Report:**

We are 83% of the way through the year. At this point in the year our expenses are at 76% and our revenues are showing 76%. 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. Thus far in 2021 we have collected our highest amount since we began tracking this. This is a combination of estate recoveries and out of home placement fees, both done by the fiscal officer.

E. Child Support Cases Transition Plan:

The director talked with the board about our process for transitioning the child support cases that currently rest at the county attorney's office.

F. Child and Youth Council Letter:

The director reviewed the letter she sent to our child and youth council executive director informing her of the decisions made at last month's board meeting regarding funding. The director noted that she did respond that she received the letter and expressed disappointment at not being asked to come to the board before the decision was made.

G. Rule 13 Audit:

The director gave the board a copy of the letter we got regarding our Rule 13 licensing audit. Our licensor did really well. The files contained one error that has already been corrected.

H. CCAP Spending:

The director talked with the board about our spending thus far in 2021 in the child care assistance program area. While we have been over budget for the past several years we are now under budget. We received a large increase, partly with COVID dollars and partly a legislative increase. We did not receive the increase until later in the year and we have since added all families still needing care from the waiting list to the program.

I. Lakeland Contract:

The director updated the board on the status of the development of the 2022 contract with Lakeland Mental Health.

J. Vulnerable Adult Reporting and Screening Overview:

The director and supervisor gave the board information on the Statewide data for adult protection screening as well as Grant County's data. Minnesota's screen in rate is well below the national average so the State is looking into this. They were pleased with Grant County and noted that we are closer to the national average of a 50% screen in rate.

K. Traverse County Update:

The director gave the board an update on the contract with Traverse County.

L. Private Client Data:

All pertinent data was discussed.

M. DAC/PAI:

The director and supervisor talked with the board about an e-mail they had received from the chairman of the Grant County DAC board last week. The director and supervisor talked about Productive Alternative's request for funds when the DAC dissolved, as they are not allowed to carry over funds. The DAC has told them they will be donating the entire \$55,000 to The Windmill Project in Douglas County and none to Productive Alternatives who they are working with to transfer that building to. PAI has expressed concerns about the state of the building and the supervisor reviewed those concerns along with cost estimate they have received for those repairs. The board expressed their commitment to keeping Productive Alternatives in our county and serving the people with disabilities who live in Grant and Pope Counties. The board discussed options for moving forward and directed the director to speak with the County Attorney about the options and begin implementation of the most viable option,

The meeting adjourned at 4:01pm

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