

**GRANT COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**  
**December 21, 2021**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dwight Walvatne  
Bill LaValley  
Ken Johnson  
Troy Johnson  
Doyle Sperr

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Stacy Hennen, Social Services Director  
Justin Anderson, Grant County Attorney  
Sheriff Mark Haberer

Dwight Walvatne called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm

**Pledge of allegiance was done**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was reviewed and after review, Doyle Sperr made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ken Johnson, MCU

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the November 16, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Troy Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill LaValley, 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 Doyle Sperr, 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. None

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Case Counts:

The director reviewed all of the cases counts and noted the increases and decreases. The director noted that from now on these will be combined Western Prairie numbers.

B. Out of Home Placement Sheet:

The director reviewed our current out of home placements. The sheet says 25 kids but three of the kids have returned home already so we have 22 kids in placement at present time. A large part of our placement group continues to be the two sibling groups of four kids.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Approval of American Recovery Act dollars for Productive Alternatives:

The director and county attorney talked with the board about the process we have been helping Productive Alternatives work through in getting the DAC building transferred to them. We also discussed the facility needs and reviewed the quotes for those facility needs. The director also reviewed with the board the lost revenue they have experienced because of COVID restrictions to the number of clients they can take. They provided documentation of that for this calendar year. After discussion Troy Johnson made a motion to approve \$25,000 of Grant County's American Recovery Act dollars to Productive Alternatives once the building is transferred and requested that the county attorney assist in facilitating the transfer of the building.

B. Resolution Delegating fiscal host duties for Region IV South AMHI:

The director and county attorney talked with the board about the joint powers language that that says that Grant County is the fiscal host of the Region IV South Adult Mental Health Initiative. That has always been done by social services and the plan is to continue that. Effective January 1, 2022 Grant County Social Services will be merging with Pope County Human Services to form Western Prairie and the director doesn't want there to be any issues for Region IV in getting the funds or our agency in distributing it. The County Attorney indicated that there is nothing in the joint powers agreement that prohibits Grant County from appointing a successor entity but we should do a resolution on this to be clear. The director reviewed the presented resolution created by the director and county attorney delegating the fiscal host duties to the successor agency, Western Prairie Human Services effective January 1, 2022. Commissioner Ken Johnson offered the resolution, seconded by Commissioner LaValley. A roll call was done and the resolution passed unanimously.

C. Opioid Settlement Money:

The Sheriff joined the meeting and gave the board some of the history on the Opioid settlement that Minnesota is a part of. The State will be sending most of the money to the counties and to some large cities but all eligible entities need to formally opt in. To do that the board has to do a formal resolution delegating the authority to someone in their county sign and execute all necessary documents. We reviewed what documents that entails and talked about the requirements for spending the money. After discussion, Commissioner Ken Johnson offered a resolution delegating the authority to the human services director, Stacy Hennen, to sign and execute all necessary documents, seconded by Doyle Sperr. A roll call was done and the resolution passed unanimously.

D. November Financial Report:

We are 92% of the way through the year. At this point in the year our expenses are at 89% and our revenues are showing 84% without our second half of taxes yet receipted in. 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.

E. Personnel Change of Hours:

The director reviewed a request from our mental health professional who works in our schools under a contract with our local mental health center to change from a full time employee to a 24 hour a week average employee. The director noted that we will adjust our contract with the mental health center to reflect that and that she supported the change for our staff. After discussion Doyle Sperr made a motion approving our mental health

professional changing from a full time employee to a 24 hour a week average employee effective January 1, 2022 when our employees change to Western Prairie Human Services employees, seconded by Troy Johnson, MCU

F. Non Union Final Payout

The director explained that in Grant County all non union staff who have been here a certain amount of time are paid at real time without a week's lag like the rest of the non union and union staff. Essentially when the county changed payroll systems they grandfathered in those non-union who were here at the time to continue to be paid real time with the understanding that when they left they would be paid out for one week instead of the last two because there is not a lag in time worked and pay date. For example, if those people get a paycheck on December 24<sup>th</sup> they are paid through December 24<sup>th</sup> whereas the other employees are paid through December 17<sup>th</sup>. There are four current non-union staff in human services who this impact in the merger. When those four get paid out on December 31<sup>st</sup> they will only receive a weeks pay and not two weeks. While this is what they agreed to, they are not separating from employment like other employees are. They are changing employers because of the merger. Unlike someone who is separating from employment they will not be paid out their insurance or anything else. This may create a hardship for some. The director spoke with Human Resources and the County Attorney about this and propose a solution that the board would need to approve. The director proposed that the board allow those four employees to take up to a week's paid vacation if they choose to for their last paycheck in order to have their paycheck reflect eight hours like everyone else's final paycheck. The board discussed it and asked questions. After discussion, Ken Johnson made a motion to authorize the four non-union employees impacted by this issue to take up to forty hours of paid vacation for their last payroll, not to exceed an 80 hour paycheck, seconded by Doyle Sperr, MCU

G. Grant Licensing Recertification:

The director reviewed the letter we received from the State re-certifying us to do childcare licensing and went over the results of our audit. Our licensor did very well and we do not have an ongoing improvement plan. We had a couple small errors we needed to correct and we have done so already.

H. Traverse County Update:

The director informed the board that the Traverse County Board unanimously entered into a three year contract for services with Western Prairie. Those services include the director, deputy director, social services supervisor, foster care licensing, child protection, and adult protection services that we currently perform.

I. Private Client Date

The board reviewed all pertinent data

The board chair adjourned at 3:58pm