

CASS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING
April 2, 2018

MINUTES

With quorum present, Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Present: Vern Bennett, Chad Peterson, Brian Hagen, Mary Scherling, Glenn Ellingsberg, Arland Rasmussen

Absent: Rick Steen

Presenter: Chip Ammerman, Director; Sharon Kleeman, Adult Services Division Manager

I. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the March 5, 2018 Board minutes. Ms. Scherling seconded it. Motion carried.

II. Senate Bill 2206 Redesign Update

Mr. Ammerman reported that preliminary talks are occurring in preparation for the 2019 redesign, which could take two years to vote on and implement. He discussed the handout listing the five primary focuses of the redesign, which include client access, effective holistic service, early intervention, redistribution of resources and the need to break away from the "traditional", and using resources to focus on service delivery with the client. Mr. Ammerman further explained examples of the redistribution of resources may include an Economic Assistance call center or smaller counties sharing day care licensing positions. The redistribution could potentially eliminate county lines, allowing clients to go to their nearest Social Services for assistance, instead of traveling distances. Mr. Ellingsberg asked how the counties would prevent overwhelming amounts of clients seeking services. Mr. Ammerman explained the funding would be based on that possibility and there may be services what would be limited at certain agencies.

Chair Bennett would like Mr. Ammerman to present, at a future meeting, how Social Services is working with other service providers in an emergency, such as a school shooting. Mr. Ammerman explained Family Service staff have been involved in Crisis Training and will present the current plan at the next Social Service Board Meeting. Linda Dorff, Family Service Divisional Manager has been meeting with school counselors and wellness coordinators to provide resources that can assist with early prevention measures, such as Trauma Informed Screenings.

III. Update on 2017 Budget Status and 2019 Budget Initial Meeting

Additional handouts were provided to Board Members outlining the finalized budget from 2017. Mr. Ammerman explained provider contracts, computers, and building renovations that were allocated for 2018 were taken and completed from the 2017 budget. He stated in 2016-2017, there were quite a few retirements, which produced a lot of roll up in salary. In 2018, he only expects two retirements. It is anticipated the Social Welfare Fund balance will end at \$439,444 for 2017, which is under the State required \$500,000.

Mr. Ammerman reported the county directors are asking for clarification from the State as it appears the formula being used to calculate funding is not consistent throughout the entire two years. He explained the State Revenues of \$11,880,194 in 2018 will remain the same in 2019. He expects the Federal Revenues to be up slightly due to Targeted Case Management payments. This will still result in a shortage of \$972,772. Mr. Ammerman discussed potential reductions, such as Family Service Contracted Services, but stated those reductions would have an impact to the agency. Prior to 2018, the State has limited counties on what they were allowed to spend. There is no longer a limit; however, counties must make the request to the State for additional funding. Mr. Peterson stated the county knew this was coming and that we will have to approach the State for additional funding to supplement the shortage.

IV. United Way Funding – Day Care Licensing

There is a growing trend of New Americans, most non-English speaking, applying to become day care providers. The agency has been working with the group, Somali Community, to provide education and application assistance for those interested in applying to become providers. This group is comprised of New Americans from Burundi, Nepal, and Somalia. United Way is offering funding of \$10,000 to assist in this effort, but would like to give the money directly to Social Services in order to monitor compliance. It was questioned what happens if the services go over the allotted funding. Mr. Ammerman explained the monies are budgeted equally for each month to prevent overspending. Mr. Ammerman will present this to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

V. Adult Protective Services Contract Paid Training

Paul Needham serves as the Chair of the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) Education Committee and offers training on the NAPSA Core Competencies. He has 35 years' experience providing Adult Protective Services (APS) in Oklahoma's Department of Human Services. He will provide five days of training in June to cover seven of the 24 core competencies that puts all 14 APS workers in the State of North Dakota on track to certification. Ms. Kleeman will also be offering the training to certain law enforcement and State Attorneys who work more closely with APS, but states Mr. Needham does limit the class sizes, so opening it up to others for a cost or donation is not something that would be available at this time. Money from the APS contract from 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2019 will be utilized to fund this training. The approximate cost will be \$8,250, which includes hotel accommodations. Mr. Ammerman will be presenting this at the next Commission Meeting.

VI. Operations Report

An Eligibility Worker has been promoted to fill the Economic Assistance Supervisor position. Kayia English has been with the agency for approximately four years. Mr. Ammerman is confident she will do very well in this role.

A long-term .5 Social Worker III from Family Services has given her resignation effective the end of May. Mr. Ammerman explained she was one of the many staff that understood the real reason why Family Services does what it does. Her explanation for leaving is for personal reasons.

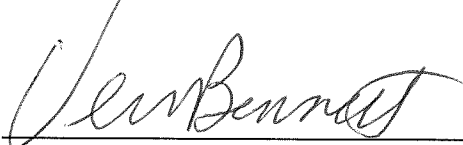
Mr. Ammerman explained April and May are the busiest months for Child Welfare, due to it being close to the end of the school year, and schools sending in more reports before kids are out of school for the summer.

With Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications slowing down and the potential of temporary jobs increasing, Economic Assistance stabilizes during this time of the year. New applications for assistance continue to come in at about 100 applications per month.

Mr. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Operations Report. Mr. Peterson seconded it. Motion carried.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m. Ms. Scherling seconded it. Motion carried.



Vern Bennett, Chair
Cass County Social Services Board



Melissa Kain Varno, Recorder