

**CASS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING
February 4, 2019**

MINUTES

With quorum present, Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Present: Glenn Ellingsberg, Duane Breitling, Rick Steen, Mary Scherling, Vern Bennett, Chad Peterson

Absent: Brian Hagen

Presenter: Chip Ammerman, Director

I. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Breitling made a motion to approve the January 7, 2019 Board minutes. Mr. Ellingsberg seconded it. Motion carried.

II. Legislative Update

Mr. Ammerman shared NDACO and the County Directors have four general areas of concern related to the current proposal of the Social Service Redesign. The groups are requesting the following areas be addressed: the Zonal Director remain a Zone Employee, the Zonal Board will have influence and power similar to the current structure and will not just be an advisory board, the timeline for the Zonal Development Plans be increased to January 2020 or January 2021 to allow for increased buy-in and planning, and the funding stream of the Social Service budget be revised to allow for leveling of funding based on caseloads and program needs, which will allow for better client service. General Assistance Burials will be within the state budget.

There was discussion on the Service Centers and how this will impact them. Mr. Ammerman stated the State is using the Theory of Constraints Model to determine efficiencies while maintaining quality assurance. The role of the regional representatives will be changing but it's unknown at this time what employee status and locations will be.

III. Family Service's Accomplishments

Linda Dorff shared some accomplishments completed by the Family Services Division in 2018. The Family Services Division has the aspiration of "Family Connections are Always Preserved and Strengthened." A lot of work has happened over the past year to modify practices to adhere to this aspiration. A few areas shared include: the CPS Pilot Project, focusing on the right services at the right time, trying to keep kids in the home but reducing trauma, Safety Organized Practice, better engagement with community relationships. The Case Management Supervisors have developed and trained on the Safety Organized Tools within the unit. A foster care support group has been developed for kids coming into care. Chip Ammerman stressed that safety of the child is always made a priority in the engagement with families.

The following supervisors introduced themselves, sharing an overview of their responsibilities and describing some of the highlights of their work from the past year: Brad Hassler, Rick VanCamp, Tami Anderson, Carissa Cowley, and Carrie Smith.

In the coming months the Social Service Redesign will begin working with Foster Care Licensing, Child Care Licensing, and in-home.

IV. TANF Update

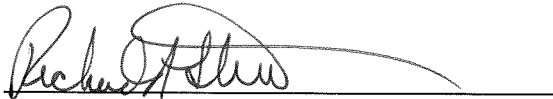
Sidney Schock provided a handout describing the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program. Specific requirements of the program were reviewed, including a lifetime limit of 60 months maximum on the program. Sidney also shared what is required for clients to be successful on the program, including needing to work 20-30 hours per week. Cass County has 175-200 TANF cases per month.

V. Operations Report

Chip Ammerman shared there continues to be an increase in CPS cases. In addition, there have been a few staffing changes, including new hires to fill vacant positions. It's hoped with the three new CPS staff that caseloads will stabilize in the near future.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Steen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 p.m. Mr. Breitling seconded it. Motion carried.



Chad Peterson, Chair
Cass County Social Services Board



Melissa Kain Varno, Recorder