

## MINUTES

The Vernon County Department of Human Services Committee met on Monday, January 12, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Sherman Erlandson. Proper public notice was given. Motion made by Brault to approve the minutes as sent. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

### **Audience to Visitors**

Nobody from the audience wished to speak.

### **Review and Approve 2014 Service Contract Amendments**

Eitland stated that this is the time of year that we begin to balance out the end of the year numbers. Eitland went over the amendments and stated that all changes are within our existing budget. Motion made by Richardson to approve the contract amendments in the amount of \$28,984. Second by Cox. Motion carried.

### **Review and Approve Line Item Transfers in 2014 Budget**

Eitland stated that she is requesting to transfer \$56,541 from the Long Term Support budget to the mental health court committed budget. Eitland stated this amount only covers bills that have come in to date. Eitland stated that if more bills come in for 2014 she will be requesting more transfers in February. Motion made by Hicks to approve this line item transfer in the amount of \$56,541. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

### **Presentation of Vouchers/Internal Transfers**

Vouchers were presented for 2014 and 2015. Motion made by Cox to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$238,576.53. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

Internal transfers were presented. Eitland stated these are for the advertising of ADRC positions that can be billed to the ADRC grant. Motion made by Richardson to approve the internal transfer of \$247.66. Second by Brault. Motion carried.

### **Review and Approve 2015 COP Plan Update – Klousia**

Klousia stated the Community Options Program (COP) plan is updated yearly. Klousia stated we receive approximately \$36,000 and will state in the plan that we will continue as we have been for 2015. Klousia stated COP funds cannot pay for services for developmentally disabled, elderly or physically disabled as those services are covered by Family Care. COP funding can help with mental health, AODA and children services. Motion made by Hicks to approve the 2015 COP Plan. Second by Richardson. Motion carried.

### **WREA/Income Maintenance – Chris Stanke**

Eitland introduced Erin Davis who will be replacing Chris Stanke when she retires in April. Eitland stated Davis will be picking up some of the job responsibilities Stanke had and will be the on-site supervisor for WREA in the Vernon County. Davis stated she has been an economic support worker in La Crosse County for 15 years and is excited to be working in Vernon County.

Stanke stated that there have been a lot of applications for Badgercare due to the federal Marketplace open enrollment. Stanke stated that in order to get current on applications the change center will be closed on Wednesdays and staff may work up to 40 hours (versus their normal 37.5) per week.

### **Long-Term Support/ADRC WW – Jean Klousia**

Klousia stated they have vacancies of one full time and one part time social worker at the ADRC which has kept the one social worker there very busy. Klousia stated that the deadline for applications was extended until January 19, 2015. Klousia stated that La Crosse County has been very good to help us out with ADRC services when asked.

Klousia stated that the mental health budget has been a big stressor in her unit. We have more and more younger people needing mental health services and placement but there are limited service providers for juveniles.

Klousia stated there has been an increase in guardianships and protective placement services.

### **Family & Children's – Jim Lee**

Lee handed out the intake and access statistics for December. Lee stated there was an increase of 26 reports in 2014 from 2013. These consisted mainly in physical abuse and neglect investigations.

Lee stated there were 46 CHIPS petitions in 2014 and usually there are less than 30 per year.

Lee stated there are 11 individuals in out of home care.

Lee stated there are 11 individuals in kinship care.

Lee stated there are 8 individuals in the CST program.

Lee stated there are 2 individuals in the post reunification program.

Lee stated there is 1 vacant position and 1 upcoming leave in April.

Lee stated college student Brienne Shaker began her internship in the Family & Children's unit today and will be introduced at the February meeting.

### **Financial – Marsha Everson**

Everson went over the Budget vs. Expenditure report and stated we should be at 100%.

Everson stated that our portion of the Kwik Trip gas program this month was \$1,425.

### **Clerical/ES/Administration – Kelly Schwarz**

Schwarz had a handout from the holiday season stating that staff at Human Services had the extra task of making sure families receiving assistance from our department had a nice holiday. Schwarz stated 13 food baskets were given away along with 350 gifts that were donated to 27 families and an additional 74 children. Staff continued to perform their regular work duties while coordinating and distributing these donations.

**Financial Planning Committee Information Report – Brault & McCoy**

McCoy and Brault both gave an update on things being discussed to help reduce costs in future years stating that a potential \$2 million deficit is projected for 2016. Brault listed several topics being discussed among the committee and department heads and it was stated that ultimately the County Board would have the final decision about any changes. Brault expressed appreciation for Chairperson Cornell convening this committee to explore ideas in advance of 2016 budget planning.

**Director’s Report, Updates and Announcements – Pamela Eitland**

Eitland thanked Dennis Brault for representing Vernon County on the Western Wisconsin Cares Board – MCO Board of Directors. Eitland stated that Maynard Cox will be replacing Brault and his 3 year term will expire in 2018.

Eitland stated that Human Services day at the Capitol is April 8, 2015 if any board members are interested in attending.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 16, 2015.

Motion made by Hicks to adjourn. Second by Cox. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Kim Tainter  
Administrative Secretary

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sherman Erlandson  
Dennis Brault  
Frank McCoy  
Brian Richardson  
Ralph Hicks  
Maynard Cox

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jay Vosseteig  
Mary Bringe  
Dianne Radcliffe

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Pamela Eitland  
Kim Tainter  
Jim Lee  
Kelly Schwarz  
Chris Stanke  
Erin Davis  
Marsha Everson  
Jean Klousia  
Karen Dahl

