

## Minutes

The Vernon County Department of Human Services Committee met on Monday, April 13, 2015. The meeting was called or order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Sherman Erlandson. Proper public notice was given. Erlandson stated there needed to be a vote on Chairman and Vice-Chairman so he turned the meeting over to Eitland. Eitland said any member could request to be a candidate for an officer, nominations could be accepted or there could be a motion to keep things as they are. Motion made by McCoy to keep the officers the same as they are with Erlandson being Chairman and Brault being Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations. Second by Bringe. Motion carried. Motion made by Brault to approve the minutes as sent. Second by Richardson. Motion carried.

### **Audience to Visitors**

No one from the audience wished to speak.

### **Review and Approve 2015 Service Contract Amendments**

There were no service contracts or amendments.

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

Vouchers were presented. Motion made by Brault to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$356,016.68. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

Internal transfers were presented. Motion made by Cox to approve the internal transfers in the amount of \$307.00. Second by Vosseteig. Motion carried.

### **Presentation of WHEAP/Energy Assistance Program Plan**

Eitland stated that as discussed at the last meeting Couleecap will not be administering the WHEAP/Energy Assistance Program as of June 1, 2015. Eitland, Everson, and Schwarz have been meeting to discuss how to best operate this program internally and look at our staffing options. Eitland stated Schwarz will be supervising this position and it has been decided that we will have two part time staff positions to accommodate the peak times of the year. Eitland stated we had a conference call with the state last month to help us out with the transition process. Eitland stated this program is federally funded to the state.

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

Schwarz stated 54 applications were received for the Economic Support position that has been advertised. Of the 54 applicants 5 candidates have been chosen and will be interviewed this week. Schwarz stated there has been a lot of office preparation going on for the new ES and WHEAP workers. Schwarz stated that we are expecting an increase in call volume when the WHEAP program is administered in this agency.

### **WREA/Income Maintenance – Erin Davis**

Davis stated the call volume for April was high. Davis shared some statistics on Vernon County ES workers which included the average speed of answering a call – 3.65 minutes, answer rate – 94.92% and application timeliness on the computer or by mail – 98.08%. Davis stated the staff in the consortium are doing a great job.

Eitland presented a handout showing that 7,427 individuals received some sort of publicly funded economic assistance in 2014 and that this number was about the same as the year before. Eitland stated that 1.5 million individuals received some kind of publicly funded economic assistance statewide.

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

Klousia stated that things have been busy at the ADRC. Klousia stated there is one full-time, trained social worker and Klousia has been helping out while short staffed and there are 75 open cases now. Klousia stated the new worker is doing well with training and job shadowing and Klousia hopes we can begin assigning cases to her in May.

Klousia stated the ADRC Conference will be held this week Wednesday through Friday and the ADRC staff will be attending.

Klousia stated there has been an increase in emergency detentions this past week.

Klousia stated we currently have 4 residents at Lakeview. Klousia stated that Lakeview is in the process of downsizing from 108 beds to 50 beds. Klousia stated we do get some priority on our placements as we are part of Mississippi Valley Health Services.

### **Family & Children's – Jim Lee**

Lee handed out the intake and access statistics for March.

Lee stated there are 12 individuals in out of home care. In addition there is 1 individual in residential treatment through the Department of Corrections. Lee stated the cost for out of home care is approximately \$37,000 per month and is about \$10,000 more per month than last year. Lee stated he is concerned about these costs because the current placements will continue and we could possibly receive new referrals. If the trend remains as it has been for the first quarter of 2015, we will not have enough funds in the existing budget to cover costs for the entire year.

Lee stated there are 11 individuals in kinship care.

Lee stated there are 12 individuals in the CST program.

Lee stated there are 3 individuals in the post reunification program.

Lee stated his unit is full staff as of today but one staff will be on leave starting tomorrow.

### **Financial – Marsha Everson**

Everson informed the board about concerns with our current activity software we purchased from GIT. Everson stated that our Visual WISSIS system tracks dollars spent per client. Everson stated that if we have problems with the system it can take up to a week for GIT to get back to us. Everson stated another portion of this software is a DOS system used for our audit reports called Great Plains. That system is outdated and has compatibility problems with our computers. GIT is doing a new upgrade that may mean we can eliminate the old DOS system. Everson said this was supposed to be ready to use in January of 2015. We need better service and if things don't improve soon we may have to look at an alternative. Everson also stated that Tainter is spending extra time keying as she has to double enter most of her work.

Everson stated she will be attending the Financial Manager meeting in May.

Everson stated that we should be at 25% and that most line items are within budget.

Everson stated the State Mental Health facilities cost for February was \$9,636.

### **Discussion on State Biennial Budget Proposal**

Eitland talked about Family Care and the ADRC as there has been a lot of coverage on this from the news media. Eitland stated the current state budget proposal states that a private insurance company may take over services for the physically disabled, developmentally disabled and frail elderly. Eitland said that there would be changes to the requirements of the MCO's and that current Western Wisconsin Cares could not meet those requirements. Eitland stated there are a lot of worries with this as it would open the door to have large nationwide insurance companies take over for the MCO's and the local representation and control of our interests would be gone. Eitland stated that when we went into Family Care our staff and long term care programs were dissolved and we began making quarterly payments of \$84,000 to the state to provide services through the Family Care system. Eitland stated we no longer have funds or staff available to us to serve the people currently served by MCO's and IRIS. Eitland stated that if the current budget proposal goes through as is there will be significant changes. The budget proposal also opens the door to have private companies administer the ADRC's as well. The proposal removes the right of first refusal of counties to operate ADRC's.

At this time a motion was made by Richardson to have Vice-Chairperson Brault reside over the meeting as Erlandson had to leave early. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

### **Financial Planning Committee Informational Report – Brault & McCoy**

McCoy stated 41 employees put suggestions in the suggestion box that was set up at the courthouse. McCoy stated there were many good suggestions and they would be discussed at the meeting today.

Brault stated that other counties have tried merging Zoning with Land and Water and it did not work well.

### **Director's Report, Updates and Announcements – Pamela Eitland**

Eitland stated we are applying for a \$200,000 grant to use over 24 months to expand existing mental health services in the community. Eitland stated this grant could provide great training opportunities.

Eitland stated that the initial per diem per day for Mississippi Valley Health Services was \$39.00 per day, was increased to \$69.00 per day and will be \$100.00 per day in 2016 as the transition occurs to move residents into the new facility.

Eitland stated she has been asked to speak at Diversity Days in Viroqua. Eitland stated this event has been extremely controversial in the past and wanted to know the board's thoughts about her speaking. It was decided that since Eitland's topic would be on the economic disadvantages in Vernon County that it would be a good topic for students to hear about.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee was scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by McCoy to adjourn. Second by Bringe. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Kim Tainter  
Administrative Secretary

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sherman Erlandson  
Dennis Brault  
Brian Richardson  
Jay Vosseteig  
Maynard Cox  
Dianne Radcliffe  
Mary Bringe  
Frank McCoy

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ralph Hicks

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Pamela Eitland  
Kim Tainter  
Jean Klousia  
Kelly Schwarz  
Erin Davis  
Marsha Everson  
Jim Lee  
Sheri Hammond