

MINUTES

The Vernon County Department of Human Services Committee met on Friday, November 9, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Redington. Proper public notice was given. Motion made by Amelse to approve the minutes as sent. Second by Muller. Motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

There were no visitors in attendance.

Review & Approve Service Contract Amendments

There were no new contracts or amendments.

Discuss & Take Action on County SMRT Bus Payment Process

Eitland stated Peter Fletcher had approached the county and requested \$15,000 to support the SMRT Bus Program. Eitland stated that Vernon County Department of Human Services would be the pass through agency for this money and make one payment per year on behalf of Vernon County. Eitland stated that \$15,000 would be available through the Human Services budget for 2018. Eitland stated this funding is not in the 2019 budget but Human Services can process the payment and if our budget would go over by \$15,000 in 2019 she can explain that it is because of the SMRT Bus payment. In 2020 and forward, the Finance Committee can decide if they will put \$15,000 in the budget for this cost. Motion made by Amelse to approve the \$15,000 payment to the SMRT bus for 2018. Second by Cox. Motion carried.

Discuss & Take Action on Vouchers/Internal Transfers

Vouchers were presented. Eitland stated that due to the change of date in the meeting the vouchers were not e-mailed out as suggested last month due to time limitations. Eitland stated this will begin with the December meeting. Motion made by Bringe to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$320,902.24. Second by Eggen. Motion carried.

Internal transfers were presented. Eitland stated the costs were for Vernon Manor congregate and home delivered meals. Motion made by Amelse to pay the internal transfers in the amount of \$7,053.25. Second by Muller. Motion carried.

Discuss & Take Action on pay out of comp time

Eitland stated that staff accumulate comp time due to being on call and the need for flexibility to work with families when they are available. Eitland stated the supervisors approve the hours and it is up to the department head for final approval. Eitland stated if we pay out in 2018 the comp will be paid at 2018 wages. Eitland stated her request is to pay out comp time for all employees at a cost of approximately \$4,500. Motion made by Eggen that employees shall be paid out for comp time balances in the last paycheck of 2018. Payouts should take the balances to zero beginning on January 1, 2019. Second by Amelse. Motion carried.

Resolution – Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

Eitland asked if everyone had received the resolution regarding Child Support Enforcement Program. Eitland stated this resolution was written by Wisconsin Counties Association and Child Support Directors in order to make the state funding larger. Eitland explained that positions in the Child Support agency draw funding so when we meet our goals we want to be paid higher to make more positions and more reimbursement at no cost to the county. Eitland stated this resolution will generate approximately \$3 million in additional federal funding over the biennial budget. Motion made by Strudthoff to approve sending the Child Support Enforcement Program resolution to the County Board for consideration. Second by Vosseteig. Motion carried.

Resolution – Requesting Increased Funding & Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin’s Child Protective Services System

Eitland asked if everyone had received the resolution regarding the Wisconsin’s Child Protective Services System. Eitland summarized the resolution by stating that if the state of Wisconsin increases the Children and Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-2021 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin County Human Services Association so Wisconsin’s Child Protective System can meet its obligations. Eitland stated we have 123 (families) open cases in Vernon County. Eitland stated we are at two times the recommendation of case size per worker. Motion made by Eggen to approve sending this resolution to the County Board for consideration. Second by Bringe. Amelse opposed. Motion carried.

Child Support – Angela Frye

Frye stated she and staff have been attending trainings offered by the state to learn how funding works and how to receive more revenue. Frye stated additional trainings have been offered on caseload numbers and how to perform better in different areas.

Frye stated that as of September 30, 2018 statistics show the following: Current caseload – 1,003, Court order performance rate – 87.64%, Paternity establishment rate 107.72%, Current support collection rate – 78.97%, Current support due in September \$2,537,825 vs current support collected in September \$2,004,074, arrears collection rate – 73.50%. Frye stated that Vernon County is higher than the state average in collections.

Family & Children's – Jim Lee

Lee shared a handout on the intake and access statistics for October. Lee stated there are 10 individuals in out of home care, 17 families in Kinship – the most we've ever had, 12 families in the CST program, 3 families in the in-home safety and 2 individuals in the post-reunification program.

Lee stated we are still advertising for the positions of Youth Justice Support Coordinator and Child Protective Service Worker.

Long-Term Support /MH/AODA – Jill Bender

Bender shared a handout with data on it. Bender stated there were 40 children in the birth to three program, 38 in the children's long-term support waiver program, 0 in the children's community options program, 5 adult protective service referrals, 3 guardianship referrals, 0 emergency protective placements, 8 emergency detentions, 18 court commitments, 11 mental health placements, 35 in Comprehensive Community Services and 60 in the Community Support Program.

WREA/Income Maintenance – Stacey Miller

Miller was not present at the meeting. Schwarz shared the monthly handout with committee members.

Schwarz stated an application will be launched soon pertaining to the Economic Support Unit that will allow clients to receive a text message informing them when they have a review due. Schwarz stated the customer will be able to take a photo of their paperwork and send on to avoid a trip into our office.

Eitland informed the committee that she learned of the new benefit called D-SNAP this week. Eitland stated that since Vernon, Monroe and La Crosse counties have been declared disasters a new benefit will be offered to them. Eitland stated there will be a public notice and will be offered the week of December 10-14.

Clerical/ES/Administration/WHEAP – Kelly Schwarz

Schwarz stated the first extraction for WHEAP benefits was done over the weekend and vendors have received payment and benefit amounts will be reflected in their next statement. Schwarz stated 437 applications have been processed and 363 applications have been approved for assistance since October 1st. Schwarz stated the average fuel benefit is \$427 and the average electric benefit is \$231. Schwarz stated this is a one- time payment per year and is a supplement to customers heating costs. Schwarz stated 3 people were helped who were in a crisis situation and 18 furnaces have been repaired or replaced.

Aging & Disability Resource Center of Vernon County – Tricia Clements

Clements stated she was sharing with Committee members the File of Life holders that provides an opportunity for individuals to have all information in one spot in case of emergency.

Clements stated that November is National Caregiver month. Clements stated that on November 28th from 3 – 5 the ADRC is hosting a Caregiver Open House. In December they are having a presentation and training on Compassionate Touch. Clements stated this will provide guidance to those that work with or have loved ones with dementia help decrease behavioral issues. Clements stated the ADRC is reaching out to local businesses in the County with informational packets about the ADRC.

Clements stated they are also preparing for the changes to the Nutrition Program for 2019. Clements stated the meal that was brought to La Farge from Norseland was a success and people were pleased. Clements stated the next meal will be November 30th. Clements stated they are working on finalizing a site for Coon Valley and once it is set up we will plan a meal for anyone who wants to attend. Clements stated the new owner has taken over for Tazzee's Wonder Bar which serves Readstown.

Clements stated the transportation numbers have increased back to our normal numbers in October. Clements stated the transportation coordinator has arranged a bus trip to the rotary lights for December.

Clements stated the I & A Workers have an average of 14 people at this time that they are working with. The Elder Benefit Specialist worked with 106 different individuals in October and also a reminder it is Medicare open enrollment. The Disability Benefit Specialist worked with 30 different people in October.

Financial – Marsha Everson

Everson handed out the Budget vs. Expenditure report and stated we should be at 83%. Everson stated the State Mental Health facilities line is blank because no bills have been received to date. Everson stated we have approximately \$98,000 in outstanding bills at the state mental health facilities and hopefully offsetting dollars that will come in later. Eitland wanted to remind the Committee that in 2017 the County Board reduced our request for 2018 from \$200,000 to \$100,000 and our current costs are approximately \$175,000 – also this does not include any costs that may be incurred in November and December of 2018.

Director’s Report, Updates, & Announcements – Pamela Eitland

Eitland stated that she, Jim Lee, Theresa Berger and Sharon Williams provided an in-service training at the Sheriff’s Department with officers and that went well.

Eitland stated that she and Tricia Clements had a meeting with the Vernon County Fair Board and next year the Thursday Senior Day will be very exciting.

Eitland stated that St. Charles Catholic School will provide Thanksgiving Baskets again this year to 5 families in need.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee will be Monday, December 17, 2018 at 9 a.m.

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

Submitted by,

Kim Tainter
Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shawn Redington
Mary Bringe
Jay Vosseteig
David Strudthoff
Gail Muller
Adrian Amelse
David Eggen
Maynard Cox

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dianne Radcliffe

OTHERS PRESENT

Pamela Eitland
Kim Tainter
Tricia Clements
Angela Frye
Kelly Schwarz
Marsha Everson
Jill Bender
Jim Lee