

MINUTES

The Vernon County Department of Human Services Committee met on Monday, January 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Shawn Redington. Proper public notice was given. Motion made by Strudthoff to approve the minutes as sent. Second by Eggen. Motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

Nobody from the audience wished to speak.

Review & Approve Service Contracts & Amendments

Bender stated there were two 2019 amendments that needed approval. Motion made by Muller to approve the 2019 amendments in the amount of \$41,600. Second by Vosseteig. Motion carried.

Discuss & Take Action on Vouchers/Internal Transfers

Vouchers were presented. Bender went through some highlights along with the managers and answered any questions the committee members addressed. Everson apologized for the vouchers being e-mailed so late due to a limited amount of time this month with the holiday. Redington also stated he re-authorized another check to a vender that was lost in the mail in the amount of \$383.96. Bender stated these vouchers also included the quarterly Family Care payment in the amount of \$80,000. Motion made by Eggen to approve the vouchers in \$363,840.18. Second by Bringe. Motion carried.

Internal transfers were presented. Motion made by Muller to approve the internal transfers in the amount of \$12,576.74. Second by Radcliffe. Motion carried.

Discuss & Take Action to Approve Dementia Care Specialist Position at the ADRC

Clements stated she is requesting to add a Dementia Care Specialist position to the ADRC. Clements stated that this person would have four main tasks – 1) provide information and assistance to those with a memory concern 2) provide information and support to the family members 3) create dementia friendly communities and 4) train staff at the ADRC and other county and municipal offices to be dementia capable. Clements stated that 55 of the 72 counties in the State of Wisconsin have a Dementia Care Specialist position and that all counties around us have a Dementia Care Specialist. Clements gave duty examples to the committee and stated that this position would be funded through the ADRC contract and the National Family Caregiver Support Program. Clements stated that since we left the 4-county consortium and became the

ADRC of Vernon County we have not spent the total amount of the contract plus staff are able to earn additional revenue based on the work they are doing. Clements stated there is approximately \$158,000 in the non-lapsing ADRC fund and at this time we are not requesting any levy dollars to support this position. After discussion a motion was made by Bringe to request the striking of the sentence “potential levy amount would be 20% if revenue funds were exhausted”. Amelse wanted to amend this motion making a new motion stating that the Dementia Care Specialist position would be 100% funded by the ADRC non-lapsing fund, the revenue that is generated by ADRC workers and the ADRC contract until all funds are exhausted and that when the funding is exhausted the position ends. Second by Bringe. Motion carried.

WREA / Income Maintenance – Stacey Miller

Bender gave Miller’s report in her absence. Bender stated the total Vernon County recipients for December was 5,186, Vernon County food share benefit issuance was \$208,628.00 and the Vernon County WI Shares Subsidy Benefit Issuance was \$19,480.69. Bender stated the numbers for Vernon County remain consistent and there have been no major changes.

Clerical/ES/Administration/WHEAP – Brenda Wright

Wright stated the front office has settled down since the Holidays are behind us but the front office remains busy with calls and office visits.

Wright stated the two vacant ES positions have been filled and both began their employment January 6, 2020. Wright stated Lynette Peterson and Karen Olson are both from our area and will be a great asset to our department. Both Peterson and Olson were present and introduced themselves to the committee.

Wright stated there were three Salvation Army requests – 2 lodging and 1 utility request.

Wright stated as of January 8, 2020 the total households applying for energy assistance was 791, 728 households received an energy assistance benefit for a total amount of \$500,817 with the average household payment of \$687.93, 22 household heating unit repairs in the amount of \$11,496 for an average of \$523 per household, and 14 heating unit replacements for a total of \$44,736 with an average per household of \$3,195. Wright stated the staff in energy assistance continue to be very busy with applications and follow-up appointments.

Child Support – Angela Frye

Frye stated Samantha Everson began her employment today and will be mentoring with Jody Schroeder for the next 3 weeks prior to her final day on January 31, 2020.

Frye stated the report for November was Caseload of 947 – down 7, Court Order Performance 92.71% - up 0.47%, Paternity Establishment 96.01% - up 1.24%, Current Support Collection 84.09% - down 0.83%, Arrears Collection 48.29% - up 8.01% and Current Support Collected in Vernon County for November \$168,283.

Frye stated the report for December was Caseload of 944 – down 3, Court Order performance 92.80% - up 0.09%, Paternity Establishment 98.21% - up 2.2%, Current Support Collection 83.14% - down 0.95%, Arrears Collection 53.76% - up 5.47 % and Current Support Collected in Vernon County for December \$154,039.

Frye also shared the Federal Performance Measures for 2019 for Vernon County.

Family & Children's Services – Theresa Berger

Berger shared her handout and stated there were 15 CPS reports screened in and 14 CPS reports screened out for a total of 29 CPS reports for December. Berger stated the CPS reports screened in for Maltreatment were 6 physical abuse, 7 neglect, 1 sexual abuse, 2 emotional damage and 1 unborn child abuse. Berger stated there were 20 alleged victim per CPS report screened in and 22 alleged victims screened out. Berger stated the CPS response times screened in were 2 same day, 1 within 24-48 hours and 12 within 5 business days. Berger stated total service reports screened in were 7 and service reports screened out was 1. Berger stated there were 7 child Welfare service screened in 0 Kinship care services. Berger stated the youth referrals were 1 truancy and 6 delinquencies. Berger stated there were 26 kids in foster homes, 13 total kids in Kinship Care, 0 in group homes and 0 in residential care centers. Berger stated there were 8 children in In-Home Safety Services and 14 total children in the Coordinated Services Team Program.

Berger stated Emily Grenier an intern from Viterbo began today and she will be here through May of 2020.

Berger stated interviews will be held this week for the Coordinated Services Team position.

Long-Term Support/MH/AODA – Jill Bender

Bender stated there were 32 children in the Birth to Three Program, 44 children in the Community Long-Term Support Waiver Program and 4 children in the Children's Community Option Program, 5 Adult Protective Services Referrals, 5 Guardianship Referrals, 0 Emergency Protective Placements for a total of 3 in 2019, 3 Emergency Detentions, 19 Court Commitments (56 in 2019, 70 in 2018 and 59 in 2017), 19 court commitments, 16 mental health placements, 37 in Comprehensive Community Services and 60 in the Community Support Program.

Aging & Disability Resource Center of Vernon County – Tricia Clements

Clements wanted to thank the Committee again for approving the Dementia Care Specialist position.

Clements stated the minibus usage in December was the highest for the year and several special trips were made to the Rotary Lights in La Crosse.

Clements stated the transportation coordinator will be going on maternity leave in February and a limited term employee will come in to assist with setting up rides while she is on leave.

Clements stated the nutrition numbers were up in December and the ADRC has been receiving a lot of calls from individuals in need of home delivered meals.

Clements stated the Elder Benefit Specialist worked with 47 different individuals in December and the majority of them were on Medicare due to open enrollment. The Elder Benefit Specialist worked with 652 different individuals in 2019.

Clements stated the Disability Benefit Specialist worked with 30 different individuals in December and the Information and Assistance Specialist have about 18 cases each.

Clements stated they are putting together transition packets for families who have 17-year olds with a disability who will need information on services/programs that are available to them in adulthood.

Financial – Marsha Everson

Everson stated we should be at 100% through December 31, 2019. Everson stated we are over on several line items and that the budget does not include the Youth Initiative Grant and other additional revenues. Everson also stated we did purchase a new Mini-Bus in 2019.

Everson stated the cost for the State Mental Health facilities for November 2019 was \$44,358.

Director's Report, Updates and Announcements – Jill Bender

Bender stated we are still working on final numbers for 2019.

Bender stated we are now at full staff in the Economic Support Unit.

Bender stated they will be holding interviews soon for the Community Services Team and Long-Term Support Supervisor Positions.

Redington stated the next meeting of the Human Services Committee will be on Monday February 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion read by Redington to go into closed session. Motion made by Eggen to go into closed session. Second by Bringe. Motion carried.

Motion made by Strudthoff to go into open session. Second by Muller. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bringe that on this request we follow county policy. Second by Eggen. Motion carried.

Motion made by Eggen to adjourn. Second by Muller. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Kim Tainter
Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shawn Redington
Mary Bringe
Jay Vosseteig
David Strudthoff
Gail Muller
Adrian Amelse
David Eggen
Dianne Radcliffe

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Jill Bender
Kim Tainter
Theresa Berger
Tricia Clements
Angela Frye
Marsha Everson
Brenda Wright
Lynette Peterson
Karen Olson
Kathleen Sullivan
Jody Schroeder

