

MINUTES

The Vernon County Department of Human Services Committee met on Monday, February 17, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Shawn Redington. Proper public notice was given. Motion made by Eggen to approve the minutes as sent. Second by Strudthoff. Roll call vote as Bringe was attending by phone – all yes – motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

Nobody from the audience wished to speak.

Review & Approve Service Contracts & Amendments

Bender stated there were amendments for 2019 that needed approval. Bender stated these were for Mississippi Valley Health Services, Trempealeau County Health Care and Windy Ridge Care and all are levy dollars for 2019 and well within the budget. Motion made by Amelse to approve the 2019 amendments in the amount of \$54,600. Second by Muller. Roll call vote – all yes – motion carried.

Bender stated there was a new contract for 2020 for the Oconomowoc Developmental Training Center – Genesee Lake School. Bender stated this is a placement for a high needs' child and due to a conflict of interest Monroe County will monitor the case. Motion made by Eggen to approve this new 2020 contract to Oconomowoc Developmental Training Center in the amount of \$115,540. Second by Strudthoff. Roll call vote – all yes - 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. Bender stated that we receive donation money throughout the year and it is receipted in Fund 80. Bender stated that when we close out at the end of the year we have to write ourselves a check and roll it forward into 2020. Motion made by Eggen to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$376,542.44. Second by Muller. Roll call vote – Bringe abstained – all others yes – motion carried.

Internal transfers were presented for 2019 and 2020. Motion made by Muller to approve the 2019 vouchers in the amount of \$5,549.87 and 2020 vouchers in the amount of \$6,903.65. Second by Strudthoff. Amelse made a motion to amend the motion to not pay solid waste \$20.40 stating there should be a minimum dollar limit on internal transfers. Second by Eggen. Roll call vote – Amelse and Eggen voting yes and Muller, Strudthoff, Bringe and Redington all no. Amended motion failed. Roll call on original motion – all yes – motion carried.

Redington stated there were 2 more contract amendments for 2019 – Hidden Springs and Womb to Tomb Wellness. Bender stated they involve no levy and these are state funds that we are reimbursed for. Motion made by Eggen to approve the additional 2019 contract amendments in the amount of \$30,000. Second by Radcliffe. Roll call vote – all yes – motion carried.

Discuss & Take Action to Approve and Fill Economic Support Specialist Position and Developmental Disabilities Social Worker

Bender stated Ashley Jefson was an Economic Support Specialist and she has accepted the CST Position in the Family & Children’s Unit. Bender stated this ESS position is 95% state funds. Motion made by Eggen to approve advertising for this position. Second by Amelse. Roll call vote – all yes – motion carried.

Bender introduced Jeri Lynn Lindner as the new Long-Term Support Supervisor and stated Lindner’s position of Developmental Disability Coordinator is now vacant. Bender stated this position is 100% tax levy and it is the 2020 budget. Motion made by Amelse to approve advertising for this position. Second by Muller. Roll call vote – all yes – motion carried.

WREA/Income Maintenance – Stacey Miller

Miller stated that Ashley Jefson was an excellent Economic Support Worker and wished her well in her new CST position.

Miller stated there are a total of 50,286 recipients in WREA. Miller stated in Vernon County there are 5,213 total recipients, 3,032 receive health care only, 471 receive food share only and there are 37 in MyWICC Child Care.

Miller stated there is an ES vacancy in Vernon, Monroe, Trempealeau and La Crosse (4 total vacancies). WREA currently has 11 workers in new worker training.

Miller stated that in the CCA (Contact Center Anywhere) there was a total of 11,512 calls offered, 9,418 calls answered, the average speed of the answer as 10.52 – just over the State performance standard of 10 minutes and the average talk and after handle time was 11.54.

Clerical/ES/Administration/WHEAP – Brenda Wright

Wright stated it was business as usual and thanked Jefson and Tainter while she is still adjusting to her new position.

Wright stated there are 3 workers in training in Vernon County and they are doing well and there is 1 vacant ESS position.

Wright stated Salvation Army request totals for the year through February 13, 2020 including Emergency Management numbers were 8 lodging requests and 6 shelter/utilities request.

Wright stated the WHEAP staff has been at a 3-day Home Energy Training Event in Elkhart Lake this past week.

Wright stated the current heating season numbers from October 1, 2019 through February 13, 2020 are 898 total household applying for Energy Assistance, 831 total households receiving energy assistance in the amount of \$570,417 with the average household receiving \$686.42. Total number of households receiving furnace repairs was 24 in the amount of \$11,826 with an average of \$493 per household. Total number of households with a heating replacement was 18 in the amount of \$57,461 with the average household receiving \$3,192.

Child Support – Angela Frye

Frye introduced Samantha Everson as the new Child Support Specialist and Everson gave a brief history on her background.

Frye stated the Child Support Office has gone to live phones once again. Frye stated this means that individuals calling the Child Support Agency will not receive the answering service but rather the administrative assistant who will then direct their call accordingly. Frye stated this has not been a smooth or easy transition but they will continue to modify this process to better serve the community.

Frye stated she did not have any performance numbers for January 2020 and will present them at the meeting next month.

Family & Children's Services – Theresa Berger

Berger shared her handout and stated there were 6 CPS reports screened in and 12 CPS reports screened out for a total of 18 CPS reports for January. Berger stated the CPS reports screened in for Maltreatment were 1 physical abuse, 2 neglect, 1 sexual abuse, 0 emotional damage and 1 unborn child abuse. Berger stated there were 10 alleged victims per CPS report screened in and 20 alleged victims screened out. Berger stated the CPS response times screened in were 0 same day, 1 within 24-48 hours and 5 within 5 business days. Berger stated total service reports screened in 5 and service reports screened out were 2. Berger stated the youth referrals were 1 truancy and 11 delinquencies. Berger stated there were 26 kids in foster homes, 13 total kids in Kinship Care and 1 in a residential care center. Berger stated there are 7 families in the Targeted Safety Support Program and 12 total children in the Coordinated Services Team Program. Berger stated the year to date numbers for CPS reports for 2019 was 289 reports with 139 of those

reports screened in. Berger stated there was a total of 237 alleged victims per report screened in, 72 delinquencies, 13 truancy, and 11 Jips.

Berger introduced the intern Emily Grenier and stated she will be here until Spring.

Berger stated Ashley Jefson began her position as the CST Coordinator February 3, 2020.

Berger stated one of the social workers will be on maternity leave so no new cases will be assigned to her at this time.

Bender shared a handout on funding that has been approved for 4 of 6 youth prison facilities. Bender stated 6 prisons are intended to replace youth prisons in Irma, Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake. Bender stated that individuals who have to stay at Lincoln Hills could be at a high cost to counties.

Long-Term Support/MH/AODA – Jeri Lynn Lindner

Jeri Lynn Lindner introduced herself as the new Long-Term Support Supervisor stating she was previously the Developmental Disabilities Coordinator at Human Services.

Lindner stated there were 28 children in the Birth to Three Program, 44 children in the Community Long-Term Support Waiver Program with 2 on the wait list.

Lindner stated there will be a State Audit on February 24th. Lindner stated we have to upload 10 files to a secure site for review. Lindner stated there will also be a Birth to Three State Audit and 6 files will have to be uploaded to a secure site.

Lindner stated there were 4 Adult Protective Services Referrals, 7 Guardianship Referrals, 0 Emergency Protective Placements, 1 Emergency Detention that went to Winnebago, 19 Court Commitments, 13 Mental Health Placements, 36 in Comprehensive Community Services and 60 in the Community Support Program. Lindner stated we currently have 1 consumer in AODA Treatment and 91 consumers had Protective Placement annual reviews.

Aging & Disability Resource Center of Vernon County – Tricia Clements

Clements stated interviews for the Dementia Care Specialist were held last week.

Clements stated that 2 new Home Delivered Meal drivers have been hired. One will primarily be out of Hillsboro and the other out of Viroqua. Clements stated they are always looking for individuals to help out and it is nice to have subs to help fill in when the regular driver cannot run the route.

Clements stated they are still looking for a site manager in Coon Valley and this site continues to remain closed.

Clements stated in the Transportation Program they are doing some advertising in specific areas to try to increase ridership and right now the focus is in Ontario. Clements stated they are also advertising for volunteer drivers.

Clements stated the social workers have an average of 16 cases each. Clements stated they are also working on a training by the state for Options Counseling.

Clements stated the Elder Benefit Specialist worked with 70 different individuals in January and the Disability Benefit Specialist worked with 30 individuals.

There was a discussion about closing the Coon Valley meal site as it seems the residents have found another option. Redington requested this be an agenda item in March.

Financial – Marsha Everson

Everson stated we are at 95.53% for 2019 and we may be able to return some dollars from Fund 80. Everson stated December expenses for the State Mental Health Facilities Fund 79 total \$89,965. Everson stated for January 2020 we should be at 8%.

Director's Report, Updates, & Announcements

Bender stated we will be holding an Ethics & Boundaries training at our office this week. Bender stated social workers are required to attend this training every other year and this is open to others.

Bender shared a handout regarding Northern Wisconsin Counties seeking State support for mental health services.

Bender stated Marla Marx is in charge of the Holiday donations and stated we served approximately 50 families during the Christmas season.

Bender stated she received a letter from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families stating that efforts by our staff have directly contributed to Wisconsin exceeding the federal requirement that at least 95% of children in out-of-home care have face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month. Vernon County was one of the highest performing counties statewide with an exceptional performance of 99.59% for 2019.

Redington wanted to thank Bender and the managers for their work during our transition.

Redington stated the next meeting of the Human Services Committee will be on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Eggen to adjourn. Second by Amelse. Roll call vote – all yes – motion carried.

Submitted by,

Kim Tainter
Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shawn Redington
Mary Bringe by phone
Gail Muller
David Strudthoff
David Eggen
Dianne Radcliffe
Adrian Amelse

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jay Vosseteig

OTHERS PRESENT

Jill Bender
Kim Tainter
Emily Grenier
Theresa Berger
Tricia Clements
Jeri Lynn Lindner
Brenda Wright
Stacey Miller
Marsha Everson
Angela Frye
Samantha Everson

