



SOUTHWEST HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

Date: February 21, 2024  
Place: Lyon County Government Center  
Commissioners Room  
Marshall, Minnesota

Opened: 9:00 a.m.  
Adjourned: 9:37 a.m.

The monthly meeting of the Human Services Board for Southwest Health and Human Services was held on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in the Commissioners Room of the Lyon County Government Center in Marshall, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Crowley. The Pledge of the Allegiance was said.

Members present:	Gary Crowley	Les Nath
	Steve Hauswedell	Doug Nagel
	Maydra Maas	Rick Wakefield
	Mic Vandever	Dennis Welgraven
	Jim Salfer	Lois Schmidt

Members absent:	Joan Jagt	Jeane Anderson
	Jackie Meier	Todd Draper
	Suanne Ohme	Greg Burger
	Dan Wildermuth	Gary Overgaard

Staff present:	Carol Biren	Lisa DeBoer
	Michelle Buysse	Nancy Walker
	Chris Cauwels	Beth Wilms
	Sherri Pickthorn	Chantelle Fogelson
	Christine Versaevel	Christine Gieske
	Lacey Hubers	Savannah DuFrane
	Gail Bielen	Kevin Spivey
	Elizabeth Pitzl	Heather Bruse

C. Chairperson Wakefield asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There was one addition of introduction of new staff, Elizabeth Pitzl. Chairperson Wakefield asked if anyone had a conflict of interest to identify. None were identified. He asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting. There were none. Motion by Commissioner Welgraven, second by Commissioner Hauswedell to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Introduction of New Staff:

Director Beth Wilms came forward to introduce new staff.

- Lacey Hubers, Office Support Specialist, Sr. Pipestone
- Elizabeth Pitzl, Office Support Specialist, Sr. Marshall
- Kevin Spivey, Information Technology Specialist, Marshall
- Christine Gieseke, Eligibility Worker, Luverne

E. Employee Recognition:

Director Beth Wilms indicated that staff are present to receive recognition.

- Savannah DuFrane, Social Worker (CMH)- Marshall- 1 Year
- Gail Bielen- Social Service Supervisor (Licensing)- Luverne- 25 Years

F. Financial-

Lisa DeBoer, Director of Business Management, came forward with the financials for the month of January. The month of January started out with a beginning balance in checking of \$3,522,186 and ended at \$1,849,212. We ended January with an overall cash & investment balance of \$14,612,669. When excluding the designated and restricted funds, the ending balance for the month was \$10,877,254; which is approximately \$732,500 from last year at this time. The self-insurance fund was at \$1,275,155 as of the end of the month. Compared to prior year, the fund is up \$612,669 but after excluding the \$350,000 transfer a more realistic number is \$312,486. To date, that fund balance is at \$1,151,060. The Fund Balances for Fund 01 (PH) was \$4,038,252 and Fund 05 (HS) was at \$6,839,002. Looking at the numbers from a budget prospective for month end Public Health is 2% over budget for revenues and at budget for expenditures. Overall to date, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$68,266. For the Human Services perspective we are 4% under budget for revenues and 1% over budget for expenditures. Overall to date, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1,685,868. Motion by Commissioner Salfer, second by Commissioner Crowley to forward the financials to the Governing Board. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Caseload-

Director Wilms asked if there were any comments or concerns about the caseload. No questions.

H. Discussion/Information-

1. Social Services Supervisor Michelle Buysse and Social Worker Heather Bruse came forward to discuss the Family Group Decision Making Grant. Heather Bruse came with an update on some data on how well the family group grant is going. The grant was received in July of 2022 and so we are in the second year of the grant. We were originally awarded two years and we actually got awarded another year without having to apply. The family group process brings families together to plan and solve problems; they use the families organic support system to help solve problems. The family group is a totally optional service that the families can choose to participate in. This grant is specifically for child protection, with focus on parental substance use, kids with disabilities, ages 2 and under and children 15-17 along with racial and ethnicity groups. The purpose of this grant is to either reduce out of home placement or avoid it all together. Some data from the first two quarters of the grant year were gathered. There have been 46 referrals, 27 family groups held and she serviced 69 kids. Currently on track to go above what was serviced last year of 42 family group and 109 children. Roughly with this program the agency is saving between \$7000-\$8000 a month in out of placement costs. Michelle Buysse pointed out that the state has opened up the eligibility for this grant. With our six counties we are hitting the number of intakes required to keep the grant. Buysse stated we are true to what the grant was written for and is why we received that one year extra without applying. Buysse stated that the support we are giving these families to keep the children in the home and getting services for the families to keep the children in the home is a very big thing. With the family group grant it is the families that make the plan and we are there to support the family. Bruse stated the feedback they are getting back from families is that they feel they are being heard.

2. Social Service Supervisor Sherri Pickthorn came forward on an update of the determination of need for day services for people with disabilities. Pickthorn stated that Advance Opportunities is merging with PHASE-Industries. PHASE- Industries is located out of Sandstone and Cambridge. Pickthorn explained that Advance Opportunities is an employment and day support service for people with all types of disabilities in our area. If the merge happens there will be two needs determinations that would have to be done. One is for change of ownership and the other one is for expanding day services. The benefits of the merge would be to have two agencies with different areas of expertise together. Advance has struggled since COVID for day services and currently maybe servicing 20-25 individuals. The only thing that our agency will see a change in would be our billing number. The hope is that we will see growth back to where we were pre COVID with servicing clients.

I. Decision Items

Chairperson Wakefield asked if there was anything further to bring to the Board. Hearing nothing, he adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Approved Date 3/20/2024

Authorized Rich Wakefield  
Chairperson, Human Services Board

Chantelle Fogelson  
Recording Secretary, Human Services Board

Attest: Beckmire  
Director