



SOUTHWEST
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES

**SOUTHWEST HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

MINUTES

Date: June 26, 2024

Place: Lyon County Government Center
Commissioners Room
Marshall, Minnesota

Opened: 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: 10:06 a.m.

The monthly meeting of the Human Services Board for Southwest Health and Human Services was held on Wednesday, June 26th, 2024 in the Commissioners Room of the Lyon County Government Center in Marshall, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rick Wakefield. The Pledge of the Allegiance was said.

Members present:

Gary Crowley	Jim Salfer
Steve Hauswedell	Doug Nagel
Maydra Maas	Les Nath
Mic Vandever	Rick Wakefield
Jeane Anderson	Lois Schmidt
Suanne Ohme	Lori Gunnick
Greg Burger	Todd Draper
Dan Wildermuth	

Members absent:

Joan Jagt	Jackie Meier
Gary Overgaard	Dennis Welgraven

Staff present:

Lisa DeBoer	Carol Biren
Nancy Walker	Gail Bielen
Chris Cauwels	Beth Wilms
Chantelle Fogelson	Ashley VanOverbeke
Cindy Nelson	Ann Orren
Jessica Kronke	Jennifer Klenken
Nichole Thooft	Jason Walker
Nadya Bucklin	

A. Call to Order-

B. Pledge of Allegiance-

C. Consent Agenda-

Chairperson Wakefield asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There was one addition to the agenda for a discussion item. The one discussion item was an update on the Final Disposition Policy that was passed in April. 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 May 15th, 2024 meeting. There were none. Motion by Commissioner Burger, second by Commissioner Salfer to approve the Consent Agenda including the one addition along with the Board Minutes from May 15th, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Introduction of New Staff-

Director Beth Wilms came forward to introduce new staff.

- Nichole Thooft, Case Aide/Parent Educator- Marshall

E. Employee Recognition-

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

- Jessica Kronke, Case Aide- Ivanhoe- One Year
- Jennifer Klenken, Child Support Office- Marshall- One Year

F. Financial-

Lisa DeBoer, Director of Business Management, came forward with the financials for the month of May. The month of May started out with a beginning balance in checking of \$1,923,765 and ended at \$3,810,600. We ended May with an overall cash & investment balance of \$10,134,674. When excluding the designated and restricted funds, the ending balance for the month was \$7,937,058; which is up approximately \$545,899 from last year at this time. The self-insurance fund was at \$1,198,181 as of the end of the month. Compared to prior year, the fund is up \$435,088. To date, that fund balance is at \$1,200,000. The Fund Balances for Fund 01 (PH) was \$4,145,900 and Fund 05 (HS) was at \$3,831,589. Looking at the numbers from a budget prospective for month end, Public Health is 4% over budget for revenues and 4% under budget for expenditures. Overall to date, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$175,917. For the Human Services perspective we are 14% under budget for revenues and 2% over budget for expenditures. Overall to date, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$4,743,971. First Half of Human Services levy has been received from one county of \$833,038 in May and remainder of the levy will be received by the end of June. Audit has officially started in June and should wrap up with a final statement and report by late summer. Preliminary 2025 budget work has started and initial numbers are being generated. Motion by Commissioner Wildermuth, second by Commissioner Vandever 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. Daycare Licensing Standards Proposed Revisions

Gail Bielen, Social Services Supervisor for Licensing, came forward on the proposed revisions for Daycare Licensing Standards from Minnesota Department of Human Services. Bielen wanted to bring awareness of the proposed draft of the new licensing standards. The standards are developed by the National Association for Regulator Administration, they are being put in place to create uniform for child care situation across the nation. Bielen stated that DHS has said that the rules for Child Care hasn't changed since the 1980's. Bielen agreed that the formality hasn't changed since the 1980's however, there has been many things added to the licensing standards. The 92 page proposed changes are to protect the health and safety of children. Bielen stated that these proposed changes will make it almost impossible for In-Home child care providers to comply both from a financial standpoint and the time constraint standpoint put on these proposed changes. Bielen came forward with examples which included; any bare soil in their outdoor space would have to be tested for lead, which in the same turn they are encouraging providers to have a garden. The outdoor play space would have to be fenced in; as licensing already deemed that space as safe so no need for fencing. Outside equipment where there is a fall zone would be required to have outdoor rubber playground mats underneath. Bielen also stated that they will be needing to have HVAC system testing along with sanitizing their freezers. Bielen is very concerned with the child care shortage that Southwest Minnesota already has that these new standards will make providers close their doors. DHS is requesting feedback on these proposed standards and Bielen stated that it is very important for us to give feedback. There is an online survey going on now that everyone can participate in. Daycare providers have come to her requesting help because they feel it is going to impossible for one person to make all these changes in the time frame that is being allotted, along with the financial burden to each provider. Providers feel that these proposed changes are going to take away the time and attention to children and make providers feel micro managed. Bielen stated the people that monitor these regulations agree with the providers. In response Bielen met with Child Care Providers in Lyon, Lincoln, and Murray county and advised them to come prepared what they think is not fair. Bielen invited state Ombudsman person who represents providers to this meeting as well. Our next step is having conversations about what is a reasonable change if the proposed change is not ideal. Bielen has been bringing these concerns to many meetings and letting people know we need to let our senators and legislation know the concerns and what we feel is reasonable for Southwest Minnesota. Commissioner Wildermuth asked what provoked these changes. Bielen responded that part of the daycare rules that we use are from the 1980's and DHS is focusing on positive discipline, however of the 92 page document discipline is just a minor change. DHS is also stating that they want to be compliant with the National Standards. A Motion by Commissioner Burger, second by Commissioner Wildermuth to conduct a letter on behalf of all six counties to send to the state legislations with the concerns on the proposed changes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Final Disposition Policy

Commissioner Burger shared that over the past weeks he has had contacts from a couple funeral homes and a few constituents about their disagreement with the changes to the policy passed in April 2024. Simply put we are the payment of last resort and the board is the policy makers. He also stated he has had contacts about support for the policy as well. After further discussion, there was no action to revise the policy. This policy will be regularly reviewed as all policies at the agency on a rotational basis.

I. **Decision Items-**

Chairperson Wakefield asked if there was anything further to bring to the Board. Hearing nothing, he adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Approved Date 7/17/2024

Authorized Rich Wakefield
Chairperson, Human Services Board

Therese Fugelsen
Recording Secretary, Human Services Board

Attest: [Signature]
Deputy Director