



SOUTHWEST HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

Date: May 17, 2023  
Place: Lyon County Government Center  
Commissioners Room  
Marshall, Minnesota

Opened: 9:00 a.m.  
Adjourned: 9:50 a.m.

The monthly meeting of the Human Services Board for Southwest Health and Human Services was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 in the Commissioners Room of the Lyon County Government Center in Marshall, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Anderson. The Pledge of the Allegiance was said.

Members present:

- Todd Draper
- Lois Schmidt
- Dennis Welgraven
- Rick Wakefield
- Doug Nagel
- Dan Wildermuth
- Rick Anderson
- Steve Hauswedell
- Greg Burger
- Mic Vandever
- Les Nath
- Jackie Meier
- Maydra Maas
- Jeane Anderson
- Sherri Thompson

Members absent:

- Joan Jagt
- Jim Salfer

Staff present:

Carol Biren	Beth Wilms	Nancy Walker
Nicole Slegers	Lisa DeBoer	Michelle Buysse
Ann Orren	Ashley Verly	Christine Versaevel
Conner Bottger	Ashley VanOverbeke	Stacy DeBates

C. Chairperson Anderson asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Anderson 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 April 19, 2023 meeting. There were none. Motion by G. Burger second by R. Wakefield to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Introduction of New Staff:

Director Beth Wilms came forward to introduce new staff.

- Ashley Verly, OSS, Marshall
- Conner Bottger, Social Worker – Adult Mental Health, Marshall

E. Employee Recognition:

Director Wilms indicated that staff are present to receive recognition.

- Krystal Berentson, Eligibility Worker – Pipestone 20 Years
- Stacy DeBates, Eligibility Worker – Luverne 20 Years

F. Financial-

Lisa DeBoer, Director of Business Management, came forward to present the April 2023 financials. The month of April started out with a beginning balance in checking of \$3,653,396 and ended at \$2,614,645. We ended April with an overall cash and investment balance of \$9,301,999. When excluding the designated funds, the ending balance for the month was \$7,671,712; which is up approximately \$1.5 Million from last year at this time. The self insurance fund was at \$804,622 as of the end of the month. The fund balance is down by \$241,653 from the prior year. For a current picture, that fund balance is at \$666,137 as of today. Fund Balances: Fund 01 (PH) \$4,317,365 Fund 05 (HS) \$3,354,347. Looking at the numbers from a budget perspective for month end: Public Health was 13 percent OVER budget for revenues and 2 percent UNDER budget for expenditures. Overall, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$359,040. Human Services was 13 percent UNDER budget for revenues and 3 percent UNDER budget for expenditures. Overall, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$3,203,499. Agency wide expenditures exceeded revenues by \$2,368,324. Quarter 2 PH levy allocation of \$262,346 has been received from all counties. Quarter 1 MDH and DHS reports have been submitted and reimbursement will start coming in May as well as the start of some levy dollars.

Motion by D. Wildermuth second by S. Thompson to forward the Financials to the Governing Board. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Caseload-

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

I. Discussion/Information

1. Child Welfare – Michelle Buysse

Child Welfare is anything that happens with kids generally between the ages of 12-18. M. Buysse supervises the STAY and extended foster care programs, the kids are usually over age 14, and in care for over 30 days. This also includes working with children who have aged out of foster care. We work with finding them a place to live and get them on the right track for adulthood. M. Buysse also supervises the circle programs. Circle can be for many different areas and some of those areas are family conflict, kids with troubles, mediation ones, and agency circles. M. Buysse supervises family group decision making. This is where we work with families who are working with child protection as well. M. Buysse supervises adoptions and she has 2 workers in that area. This is where parental rights are terminated and we find homes for them. Currently there are 30 cases. 1 case currently has 8 children. Many cases can have several children on the case. All of those kids are in placement currently. Child welfare takes the cases that are screened out but there are family issues. Child welfare workers generally have anywhere from 10-25 cases. This is a busy time of a year as child welfare works with truancy in the schools. Currently there are 50 plus cases with truancy. Child welfare workers have to see their kids 1 time per month. These kids are in a lot of areas and a lot of travel is required to see these kids. The complexity of these cases are a lot higher than pre covid. Parents are struggling and kids are struggling along with them. These cases are physically and emotionally draining when working with these kids. They deal with a lot of crisis. Workers care about the kids and when are not doing well, the workers are not well. Kids swear at the workers and kids go on the run. On a positive note the kids are also thankful for people who have cared. Many kids invite their workers to their graduation. They get thank you's for caring and getting them to graduation. Most of the time the workers are the only constant adult in their life.

2. Homeless Prevention Aid – Beth Wilms

B. Wilms stated that we will be receiving homeless prevention money that is designated for homeless children or families in our six counties. Each county is getting a certain dollar amount. B. Wilms and C. Nelson have been discussing with UCAP about turning that money over to them as they are the content experts in this area. B. Wilms stated that we will still track where the money is used and what county has used what portion of the funds. We are expecting this money in July.

J. Decision Items

1. Social Services Policy 06 Interactive Video Policy – Christine Versaevel


C. Versaevel stated that during covid we were able to use zoom to conduct our target case management hits, this option has been taken away. The state came out with a new option through zoom or similar technology to use for weather days or very emergent situations. This would be used as a last resort. The child and family have to agree with using it and also have the ability to use the technology. C. Versaevel stated that we would never exceed over 50% of our visits through this option but we do like to have it in certain situations. Motion by D. Wildermuth second by D. Welgraven to approve the Social Services Policy 06 Interactive Video Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Anderson asked if there was anything further to bring to the Board. Hearing nothing, he adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Approved Date 6-21-23

Authorized   
Chairperson, Human Services Board

  
Recording Secretary, Human Services Board

Attest:   
Director