



SOUTHWEST HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

Date: November 15, 2023
Place: Lyon County Government Center
Commissioners Room
Marshall, Minnesota

Opened: 9:00 a.m.
Adjourned: 10:11 a.m.

The monthly meeting of the Human Services Board for Southwest Health and Human Services was held on Wednesday, November 15, 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:	Jeane Anderson	Todd Draper
	Rick Anderson	Greg Burger
	Steve Hauswedell	Doug Nagel
	Maydra Maas	Jackie Meier
	Les Nath	Rick Wakefield
	Mic Vandever	Dennis Welgraven
	Jim Salfer	Dan Wildermuth

Members absent:	Sherri Thompson	Lois Schmidt
	Joan Jagt	

Staff present:	Carol Biren	Cindy Nelson	Alex Dvorak
	Chris Cauwels	Michelle Buysse	Jessica Thunder Hawk
	Monica Christianson	Sherri Pickthorn	Alissa Rofshus
	Lisa DeBoer	Nancy Walker	Carol DeNoble
	Chantelle Fogelson	Megan Boerboom	Tarah Cunha
	Beth Wilms	Samantha DeWit	Lauren Oberle
	Stacy Jorgensen	Holly Johnson	Morgan Mahanke
	Stacey Longtin	Andrea Henning	Jenna Stephenson
	Amanda Hall	Melissa Van Hyfte	

C. Chairperson Anderson asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. None were identified. Chairperson 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 October 18, 2023 meeting. There were none. Motion by Commissioner Widermuth second by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Introduction of New Staff:

Director Beth Wilms came forward to introduce new staff.

- Jenna Stephenson, Public Health Educator, Pipestone
- Lauren Oberle, Social Worker (LTC), Redwood Falls
- Jessica Thunder Hawk, Office Support Specialist, Sr., Slayton
- Chantelle Fogelson, Office Support Supervisor, Marshall
- Carol DeNoble, Social Worker (AMH), Luverne
- Morgan Mahanke, Social Worker (CPS), Pipestone
- Tarah Cunha, IT Specialist, Sr., Marshall
- Melissa Van Hyfte, Public Health Educator, Ivanhoe
- Alissa Rofshus, Eligibility Worker, Luverne
- Ashley Kokesh, Office Support Specialist, Sr., Redwood Falls
- Amanda Hall, Social Worker (CPS), Redwood Falls

E. Employee Recognition:

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

- Samantha DeWit, Social Worker (CPS)- Redwood Falls 1 Year
- Lisa DeBoer, Director of Business Management, Luverne 25 Years

F. Financial-

Lisa DeBoer, Director of Business Management, came forward to present the October 2023 financials. The month of October started out with a beginning balance in checking of \$1,555,443 and ended at \$1,888,916. The month of October ended with an overall cash and investment balance of \$12,826,935. When excluding the designated funds, the ending balance for the month was \$11,071,089; which is up approximately \$2.9M from last year at this time. The self-insurance fund was at \$929,037 as of the end of the month. The fund balance is down by \$59,187 from the prior year. For a current picture, that fund balance is at \$889,716 as of today. Fund Balances: Fund 01 (PH) \$4,346,328; Fund 05 (HS) \$6,724,760. Looking at the numbers from a budget perspective for month end: Public Health is 5 percent over budget for revenues and 4 percent under budget for expenditures. Overall to date, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$388,003. Human Services is 3 percent under budget for revenues and 3 percent under budget for expenditures. Overall, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$166,904. Q3 reports have been submitted and MDH and DHS reimbursement will start filtering in as the month progresses. Motion by Commissioner Draper, second by Commissioner Salfer 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. Access to services for DD and CADI

Sherri Pickthorn along with Holly Johnson and Andrea Henning came to the board to discuss the under 65 waiver programs. They wanted the board to be aware of some of the challenges they are facing in supporting the individuals they serve. Sherri shared in June of 2022 there was a 30% job vacancy, which is about 9,000 open positions in Minnesota. There are also 173 group homes, which is equivalent to 692 less people that can be served, that closed in 2021. In our 6 counties alone, we have lost 6 group homes. There was a newspaper article that interviewed staff at group homes and the data collected was individuals have been working 18-22 hour shifts, as many as 25-30 days in a row. Another article that Sherri shared was about the CDCS (consumer direct community support) program. It is a program that gives families funding to find and hire their own staff. A lot of these staff are beginning to be their own family members or a spouse. The amount of funds that are being used are increasing and believed to be because there is no place for these individuals to go in the community. A lot of the burden is falling on the family members to take care of these individuals with needs and they are being burnt out. Andrea Henning and Holly Johnson came to the board with real life scenarios that dealt with CDCS type of cases and not being able to find placement. When the agency is not able to find long term care for these individuals it ends up being a crisis situation. One provider is now resorting to using a hotel in the metro that hires individuals take care of these clients which comes with a very high daily rate. When a case turns into a crisis situation the worker has to make this a priority and cannot spend adequate time with their other clients. This has a big impact on the community resources as they are being utilized for these crisis situations. This is a state wide problem.

2. Restorative Justice Grant application

Michelle Buisse and Megan Boerboom came to the board to discuss the two grants that they have applied for. One being the YIP grant; which we have had for the past 4 years and it's just a new round of funding. This would be for families that have children struggling at home or just haven't gotten to the justice system yet. This grant would fund a part time person (25 hours) to help with behavior issues of adolescents that don't qualify for circle. The second grant is a CCP grant, which means Community Crime Prevention. This is a larger grant and has no match funding so would be straight funding. This would fund 2 full time county agency social workers that would specialize in restorative practices. All their focus would be on early intervention for children involved in the justice system. Research shows that if young adults get involved in the justice system when they become adults they are more likely to remain in the system; which costs tax payers more money. Services the position would offer would be circle sentencing and family group decision making along with mapping. This would also help fund the family group sessions that aren't child protection cases. Would also help with case management/diversion and start a probation transition program. This is a 2 year funding cycle. The renewal period is noncompetitive and the best hope would be for 4 years. The state is moving toward this type of restorative justice program, which we already have established. Would know by end of November or beginning of December if agency is awarded grants and funding starts January 1st, so a very quick turnaround time. Megan doesn't foresee a challenge in hiring and there is a

connection with SMSU and the restorative justice program. Chairperson Rick Anderson would like to see an outline for a job description for the social worker position and data on how many youth this will impact along with what we are going to expand. Michelle Buysse and Megan Boerboom will bring that information to the next board meeting in December.


I. Decision Items

1. 2024 Human Services Budget.

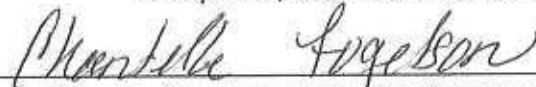
Lisa DeBoer presented the budget information regarding levy amounts and program information for 2024. Motion by Commissioner Burger, second by Commissioner Draper to approve a 6% levy increase for a total levy request of \$13,305,205 for a human services budget of \$31,101,901 for 2024. The motion carried unanimously.


Chairperson Anderson asked if there was anything further to bring to the Board. Hearing nothing, he adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Approved Date 12.30.23

Authorized 

Chairperson, Human Services Board


Recording Secretary, Human Services Board

Attest: 
Director