

Southwest Health and Human Services

Accounting Policies and Procedures Handbook

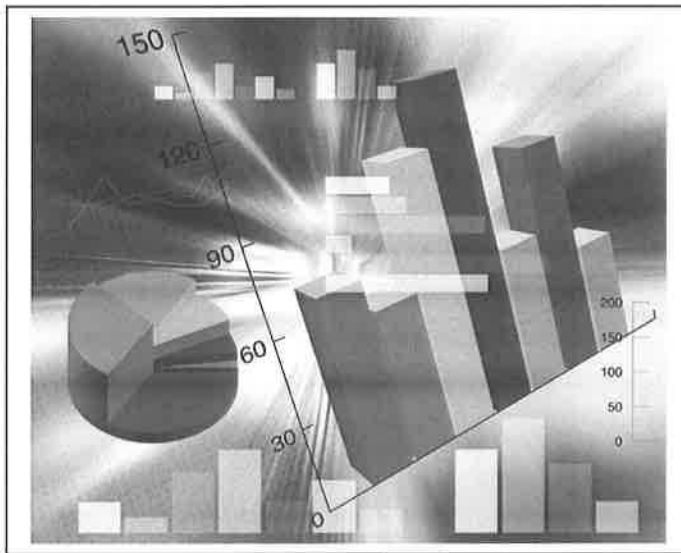


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Adopted November 16, 2011	
Revised December 19, 2012.....	
Revised December 18, 2013.....	
Revised December 17, 2014.....	
Revised December 16, 2015.....	
Revised December 21, 2016.....	

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The County's financial statements are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). Governments are also required to follow the pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), (when applicable) that do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

Financial Reporting Entity

Southwest Health and Human Services was formed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 393.01, subd. 7, (joint powers agreement), by Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, and Pipestone Counties. Southwest Health and Human Services began official operation on January 1, 2011, and performs Board, Welfare, and Public Health functions. Rock County joined Southwest Health and Human Services 1/1/12. Pipestone County Human Services and Redwood County Human Services and Public Health joined Southwest Health and Human Services on 1/1/13. Local financing is provided by the six member counties for Public Health and Human Services. The county contribution for financing is based on a per capita cost for public health. The county contribution for financing is based on a formula considering population, tax capacity, and three year average of SEAGR expenditures. The joint powers are governed by a Human Services Board, a Community Health Board, and a Governing Board. (See JPA for specifics).

Southwest Health and Human Services is governed by a twelve-member Board. In addition, there are two program boards, Human Services and Community Health. Each Board is organized with a chair, vice chair, and secretary elected at the January meeting of each year.

Basic Financial Statements

Basic financial statements include information on the Human Services' non-fiduciary activities, Nursing Services, Agency Insurance, and information on the Special Fund of Public Health and General Fund of Human Services. These statements report general activities of the General Fund and reconcile it to "Governmental Activities". Governmental activities are reported on the full accrual, economic resources basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables, as well as long term-debt and obligations. Southwest Health and Human Services net position is reported in two: (1) invested in capital assets and (2) unrestricted.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of each function of the County's governmental activities are offset by program revenues.

The Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for the General Fund are presented on the modified accrual basis and report current financial resources.

Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position

Deposits and Investments

Under the direction of the Investment Committee and the Board, most cash transactions are administered by the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer.

Receivables and Payables

The financial statements for Southwest Health and Human Services contain no allowance for uncollectible accounts. Uncollectible amounts due for receivables are recognized as bad debts at the time information becomes available that indicates the collectability of a particular receivable. These amounts are not considered to be material in relation to the financial position or operations of the fund.

Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of \$5,000 or more and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

See Capital Assets section of Administrative Policy 2.

Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences reported in financial statements consists of unpaid, accumulated annual vacation and sick leave balances. The liability has been calculated using the vesting method, in which leave amounts for both employees who currently are eligible to receive termination payments and other employees who are expected to become eligible in the future to receive such payments upon termination are included. Compensated absences are accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

See Compensated Absences section of Administrative Policy 2.

Deferred Revenue

All County funds and the government-wide financial statements defer revenue for resources that have been received, but not yet earned. Governmental funds also report deferred revenue in connection with receivables for revenues not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.

Long-Term Obligations

Long term liabilities are not reported in the fund. The General Fund reports only the liabilities expected to be financed with available, spendable financial resources. The statement of Net Position reports long term liabilities of the governmental activities.

Fund Equity

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

Monthly Working Trial Balance

Each month the “Treasurer’s Cash Trial Balance” is printed from the IFSpi system. This report is presented to the governing Boards each month to show the financial status of the agency on a cash basis. The report properly breaks out each fund and department within the fund.

See Monthly Working Trial Balance Narrative for detailed procedures.

Chart of Accounts

The County follows COFARS (County Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards) with their chart of accounts. The chart of accounts are utilized to track revenue and expense in the appropriate fund, department and program. The accounts are also mapped to the proper line item in the working trial balance.

See Chart of Accounts Narrative for detailed procedures.

PUBLIC PURPOSE DOCTRINE

Public Funds

According to the interpretation and understanding of state law described as the “public purpose doctrine”, public funds may be spent only if the purpose is a public one for which tax money (and all funds) may be used, there is authority to make sure the expenditure, and the use is genuine.

There is not a precise definition of what constitutes a “public purpose”. However, the courts have interpreted it to mean “such an activity as will serve as a benefit to the community as a body and, at the same time, is directly related to the functions of government.”

A declaration must be signed by vendors or other claimants, and employees and elected officials for reimbursable expenses, as included on the claim forms or on the check endorsement, which states:

On claim form:

I declare under the penalties of law that this account, claim or demand is just and correct and that no part of it has been paid.

(Signature of Claimant)

Check Endorsement:

The undersigned payee, in endorsing this warrant check declares that the same is received in payment of a just and correct claim against Southwest Health and Human Services.

County Expenditures

Commentary by State Auditor Patricia Anderson

County officers and employees often ask the State Auditor’s Office whether certain expenditures are allowed by law. In order to assist you in addressing such questions, this article will present some of the basic standards to consider when you are faced with an expenditure request.

First, consider the nature of a county’s authority to expend funds. As a public entity, a county must have statutory or charter authority to make an expenditure. Such authority may be either expressly enumerated in a statute or in the county’s charter, or “implied as necessary in aid of those powers which have been expressly conferred.” *Mangold Midwest Co. v. Village of Richfield*, 143 N.W.2d 813, 820 (Minn. 1966). This is a county’s main limitation in spending money. Counties can always ask for more authority from the legislature.

Second, make sure each expenditure is for a public purpose. The public purpose requirement originates in the Minnesota Constitution, which states that “taxes.....shall be levied and collected for public purposes.” The Minnesota Supreme Court has explained that “public purpose” generally means “such an activity as will serve as a benefit to the community as a body and which, at the

same time, is directly related to the functions of government” *Visina v. Freeman*, 89 N.W.2d 635 (1958). It has also stated that public funds may be used by a public entity if the purpose is a public one for which tax money may be used, there is authority to make the expenditure, and the use is genuine. *Tousley v. Leach*, 180 Minn. 293, 230 N.W. 788 (1930). Generally, the main point is that a county’s expenditure must ultimately benefit the county’s citizens as a whole, although various citizens may benefit more or less directly.

Many of the specific questions we receive involve requests for donations by individuals, non-profit entities, charities, etc. Such donations are not permitted unless they are based on express statutory authority. The assumption is that a gift of public funds to an individual or private entity necessarily serves a private, rather than a public purpose. Attorney General opinions have stated that public entities have no authority to donate funds, even to groups like 4-H clubs, the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts. If a group is going to perform a function that the county has authority to perform, the county should set out the arrangement in a properly executed contract.

Counties, unlike private employers, must remember that public funds cannot be given away to public employees or officials as gifts. Public funds should not be used to purchase plants, flowers, birthday cakes, etc. for officers, employees or others. Likewise, unless express authority provides otherwise, employee social functions may not be paid for with public funds. Of course employees can informally pool their own money to purchase such things for each other. The Attorney General has stated that municipal corporations may not imply authority to appropriate public revenue for celebrations, entertainments, etc., or fund a Christmas party for employees. However, counties are expressly authorized to establish and expend funds for preventive health and employee recognition services. M.S. § 15.46 (2002).

The State Auditor’s Office hopes that the information in this article helps you as you make decisions regarding county expenditures. If you have questions, feel free to contact the State Auditor’s Legal Division at (651) 296-2551.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

County Disbursement

Claims for payment are entered into the IFSpi System with the assigned budget line item code. The warrant register is reviewed and signed off by the Director, Deputy Director, Social Services Division Director, or Public Health Division Director. Warrants are processed weekly and are approved at the board meetings. The Board reviews monthly, all transactions issued from the previous Board meeting through the current Board meeting. There will not be any warrants paid that are under \$1.00, as it is not cost effective for the agency to do so.

See Check Processing Narratives for detailed procedures.

Accounts Payable

Payables are only recorded at year end. Invoices paid in January and February are reviewed and coded with an accrual code of AP (Accounts Payable) or DTG (Due to other Governments) in SSIS and IFSpi indicating the transaction as a payable.

See Accrual Codes Narratives for detailed procedures.

Retention Policy

Original claims with invoices, receipts, and other attachments are kept according to the General Record Retention Schedule (DHS Bulletin #14-85-01). SWHHS keeps current year plus 6 audited years in storage.

W-9 Forms Required

A W-9 form is required to be completed by each new vendor whose payment qualifies for a 1099, where the Tax ID number or Social Security Number is required. See example of W-9 form located on the IRS website.

See Vendors Narratives for detailed procedures.

Replacement of Lost, Stolen or Destroyed Checks

If a request is received for replacement of a lost, stolen or destroyed check, the payee or vendor must complete and sign the "Lost/Stolen Warrant Affidavit" form. The signature must be notarized. There is a 10 calendar day required waiting period. The on-line banking system is checked for verification that the original check has not been cashed. A replacement check is then issued. If the check is a minimal amount in relation to the stop payment charge, a stop payment may not be requested. Fiscal Manager makes this decision.

Unclaimed Warrants / Funds

Routinely, the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer's office will advise SWHHS of the outstanding checks that have not been cashed within a minimum of 6 months from the date of issuance. The "Lost/Stolen Warrant Affidavit" form is sent out to all vendors. Minnesota Statute 345.31 is followed for the unclaimed funds procedures. The Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer cancels the warrant(s) through Board action. Funds are then transferred to the MN Dept. of Commerce, Unclaimed Property Program each October.

GASB 34 Compliance Related and Procurement Policies

The following policies are presented and adopted in response to the accounting and reporting requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Pronouncement 34 and later pronouncements. These policies provide the foundation for the collection and reporting of County financial information in accordance with these pronouncements.

“Fund Statements” refers to the individual fund year-end financial statements. These are essentially the same as previously published statements.

“Government Wide Statements” refers to the new Statement of Net Position, Statement of Activities, and the reconciliation required under GASB 34 reporting standards.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are part of the governmental activities column on the Statement of Net Position in the Government Wide Statements. Depreciation is required to be recorded as an expense at the government-wide level in the Statement of Activities.

See Capital Assets Policy section of Administrative Policy 2.

Budget

The SWHHS Budget is adopted annually by the SWHHS Joint Governing Board. The contribution by counties is determined at the August Board meeting and the final budget is approved at the December Board meeting.

Budget Level for Legal Control

Budget control is designated at the department level and administrative level. The use of budget dollars across line items within a department are at the discretion of the department management/administration, as long as federal, state, or other funding source use and reporting requirements are met.

See Budget Policy section of Administrative Policy 2.

See Budget Process Narrative for detailed procedures.

Use of Restricted Assets

Unassigned resources will only be used to pay restricted liabilities after appropriate restricted resources have been depleted, or the SWHHS Joint Governing Board takes specific action to appropriate those unassigned resources.

Identifying Special or Extraordinary Items

Items reported as Extraordinary Items are transactions that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence and are the result of events that may be beyond the control of SWHHS management.

Special Items are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence and are under the control of SWHHS management.

Revenue Recognition in Governmental Fund Statements

Governmental Fund Statements, including the General Fund, are presented using modified accrual accounting. In order for a receivable to be recognized as a revenue within these statements, it must be considered available. The county considers a revenue available if it is collectable within 60 days of the date of the financial statement.

Procurement

Southwest Health and Human Services will procure the goods and services requested to meet its needs and fulfill its mission. The agency will procure goods and services as economically as feasible, in a manner that is efficient, straightforward, and equitable and which complies with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations and all other agency policies.

See Procurement Policy section 9 of Administrative Policy 2.

GASB 68

In June 2012, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued new pension accounting and financial reporting requirements. GASB Statement No. 68 is effective for financial statements for fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2014. The GASB is the authoritative standard-setting body for governmental accounting principles. The new requirements fundamentally change the way state and local governments and school districts account for public pension liabilities and expenses.

Governments will now report their proportionate share of PERA's unfunded pension liability, referred to as the net pension liability or NPL, on their government-wide financial statements. The NPL is the difference between the present value of future pensions benefit payments to employees and the amount of plan assets currently available to pay the future pension benefits. PERA will allocate the NPL to participating employers. PERA will calculate each employer's proportionate share of the NPL based on the employer's contributions to the pension plan as a percentage of the total of all employer's contributions to the plan.

Pension expenses will be equal to the change in the NPL from the prior year to the current year (with some adjustments for deferred amounts). Pension expense will be calculate by PERA's actuary, and similar to the allocation of the NPL, PERA will allocate pension expense and deferred amounts to participating employers each year.

Employers will include fairly extensive pension footnote disclosures and pension-related schedules as Required Supplementary Information. The GASB believes the additional pension information will better inform financial statement users how the pension liability changes over time and what economic events and assumptions impacted the changes in the liability.

It is important to note the NPL will not impact the fund balance of governmental operating funds. The new accounting standards require that the NPL only be reported on the government-wide financial statements, which are prepared on the accrual basis.

Governments will continue to pay off the unfunded pension liabilities in the same way that they always have. The timing of when pension plans will be funded does not change as a result of the new accounting and financial reporting requirements. They will not be solely responsible for paying off those liabilities. Employers, employees, and retirees all share the responsibility to pay off unfunded pension liabilities. Investment earnings on contributions fund the majority of pension benefits in Minnesota.

Investment Policy

It is the intent of this policy to define and standardize procedures to be used in the investment of Southwest Health and Human Services funds. This policy shall apply to all financial assets of the agency. Any new funds created by the Southwest Health and Human Services Joint Governing Board shall be bound by this policy unless specifically exempted by the Southwest Health and Human Services Joint Governing Board through resolution. These funds are accounted for in the agency's annual financial report and include General Revenue Funds.

All investments by SWHHS will take into consideration investment objectives, ethics and conflict of interest, standards of prudence, delegation of authority and internal controls, reporting, authorized investment institutions and dealers, competitive selection of investment instruments and authorized investments and portfolio composition.

See Administrative Policy 7.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER POLICY

Minnesota Statute 385.071 states "...the county board shall establish policies and procedures for investment and expenditure transactions via electronic funds transfer."

To ensure the safety of county funds through controlling the electronic flow of these funds.

The SWHHS Board of Commissioners delegates the authority to make electronic fund transfers to the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer as SWHHS's fiscal agent.

REVENUES

According to M.S. §385.05 Receipt and Payment of Money, "The county treasurer shall receive all money directed by law to be paid to the treasurer and pay them out only on the order of the proper authority."

The Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer is the custodian of all receipts and revenue. SWHHS prepares all receipts. Actual income should be credited to budgeted revenue line items. Accounts and budget

line items are setup according to COFARS (State Auditor “County Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards”) requirements and GASB34 Reporting. See the COFARS manual for a more detailed explanation.

Reimbursements for current year expenses should be credited to an expenditure line item in a budget. If the reimbursement is received in a new fiscal year, it will be credited to an income line item. There may be exceptions according to State rules and regulations.

See General Receipting and Recording Narrative for detailed procedures.

Classification of Program Revenues

Program revenues are revenues that apply directly to a program from revenue sources, not including tax collections. Program revenues include charges for services applicable to the program, specific grants, allocations and contributions to the program, and earnings of endowments or investments specifically restricted to that program. Those revenues not designated by rule, statute, or policy to a program, are considered General Revenues to SWHHS.

Revenue Recognition in Governmental Fund Statements

Governmental Fund Statements, including the General Fund, are presented using modified accrual accounting. In order for a receivable to be recognized as a revenue within these statements, it must be considered available. SWHHS considers a revenue available if it is collectable within 60 days of the date of the financial statement.

Other Acquisitions

Donations of property and goods to SWHHS must first be approved by the SWHHS Joint Governing Board as per the MN Statue 465.03. “Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full.”

Accounts Receivable

Billing customers for services provided is performed by the accounting or collections department depending on the service. Second notices or reminders are sent if payments are not received within a reasonable period.

During January and February, any payments received for those outstanding invoices must be marked as Accounts Receivable.

Receivables are set up for year-end accrual entries. Receivables are set up just like regular cash receipts, but with an added step.

Receipts received in January and February for the prior year are coded in IFSpi with an accrual code of AR (Accounts Receivable) or DFG (Due from other Governments) in IFSpi indicating the transaction as a receivable. It is the Accounting Technicians' responsibility to flag receivables. The Fiscal Manager and Fiscal Officer reviews all receivables.

See Accrual Codes Narrative for detailed procedures.

Grants Accounting

All grant applications must be approved by the SWHHS Governing Board. Accounts are setup using COFARS for the correct Local, State or Federal grant category for income and expenses. The necessary information needed for financial reporting is included.

NSF Checks

The banks automatically return NSF checks to SWHHS after they have been put through twice. The Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer is advised by SWHHS when documentation is received from the bank and has been verified via the online banking system. Once notified, SWHHS will contact the payer directly when possible, to make the check good.

Uniform Grant Reporting

According to M.S. §200.331 Requirements for pass-through entities, all pass-through entities of federal funds must ensure that every subaward is clearly identified to the subrecipient as a subaward and includes the following information at the time of the subaward and if any of these data elements change, include the changes in subsequent subaward modification. When some of this information is not available, the pass-through entity must provide the best information available to describe the Federal award and subaward. Required information includes:

1. Federal Award Identification.
2. All requirements imposed by the pass-through entity on the subrecipient so that federal award is used in accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of the Federal award.
3. Any additional requirements that the pass-through entity imposes on the subrecipient in order for the pass-through entity to meet its own responsibility to the Federal awarding agency including identification of any required financial and performance reports.
4. An approved federally recognized indirect cost rate negotiated between the subrecipient and the Federal Government or, if no such rate exists, either a rate negotiated between the pass-through entity and the subrecipient (in compliance with this part), or a de minimis indirect cost rate as defined in §200.414 Indirect (F&A) costs, paragraph (f).

5. A requirement that the subrecipient permit the pass-through entity and auditors to have access to the subrecipient's records and financial statements as necessary for the pass-through entity to meet the requirements of this part.
6. Appropriate terms and conditions concerning closeout of the subaward.

Evaluate each subrecipient's risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward for purposes of determining the appropriate subrecipient monitoring.

Consider imposing specific subaward conditions upon a subrecipient if appropriate as described in §200.207 Specific conditions.

Monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

Verify that every subrecipient is audited as required when it is expected that the subrecipient's Federal awards expended during the respective fiscal year equaled or exceeded the threshold set forth in §200.501 Audit requirements.

Consider whether the results of the subrecipient's audits, on-site reviews, or other monitoring indicate conditions that necessitate adjustments to the pass-through entity's own records.

Consider taking enforcement action against noncompliant subrecipients as described in §200.338 Remedies for noncompliance of this part and in program regulations.

Although these are the new rules and regulations, Southwest Health and Human Services will be utilizing the extension on the grace period for the implementation of the new procurement standards of up to 2 years (2015 and 2016) as granted by the new federal guidance.

TRAVEL AND MEAL POLICY

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM EXPENSE

This policy shall be for employees incurring work related expenses.

Travel: When there are no agency ~~cars-vehicles~~ available for use, the agency will pay the ~~current IRS~~ agency rate of \$0.23 per mile ~~for mileage which is determined annually.~~ The rate of reimbursement, when an agency ~~car-vehicle~~ is available, when using your ~~personal-carvehicle~~, will ~~also be the operational cost of SWHHS vehicles (calculated annually)~~ agency rate of \$0.23 per mile.

See Personnel Policy 5.

Meals: Meal expenditures are eligible for reimbursement when the situation meets public purpose criteria. Employees are encouraged to consider whether the same result can be obtained without the expenditure. Employees are not eligible to claim meals for agency business or training within counties covered by SWHHS.

See Personnel Policy 6.

If reimbursement is made after 60 days of original receipts, all reimbursable expenses become taxable, per IRS Regulations.

FRAUD POLICY

In broad terms, fraud refers generally to any intentional act committed to secure an unfair or unlawful gain. For the purposes of Southwest Health and Human Services' Fraud Policy, it is defined as an intentional act to deprive Southwest Health and Human Services, or any individual or entity related to Southwest Health and Human Services' business, of something of value, or to gain an unfair advantage through the use of deception, false suggestions, suppression of the truth, or some other unfair means, which are believed and relied upon.

All employees of Southwest Health and Human Services who have a reasonable basis for believing fraud or other wrongful acts have occurred have a responsibility to report such incidents to their immediate supervisor. If notifying the supervisor is not possible because of absence or because you believe your supervisor may be involved, you should notify the Director. All supervisory personnel informed of suspected fraud or other wrongful acts must immediately notify the Director. All information will be treated confidentially.

Minnesota Statute 609.456 Subd. 1, requires any employee or official, upon discovery of evidence of theft, embezzlement or unlawful use of public funds, to report it to law enforcement and in writing to the State Auditor a detailed description of the alleged incident or incidents.

See Administrative Policy 3.

MONTH END ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

After all receipts and checks have been processed in the IFSpi System, the Treasurer's Cash Trial Balance is prepared and Funds are balanced. Monthly department budget reports are then printed and forwarded to Department Supervisor. This work is completed no later than the tenth day of each month, however, there may be extenuating circumstances which may cause a delay.

Southwest Health and Human Services has adopted Integrated Financial System pi (IFS) as our general ledger package.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Board members and administration/supervision have an obligation to act in the best interests of SWHHS. Outside financial interests and/or legal commitments should not be permitted to create conflicts of interest that interfere with the performance of such duties. A conflict of interest exists when a Board member or administration/supervision has an external financial interest or other

legal obligation that reasonably could be seen as creating an incentive for the individual to modify the conduct of his or her duties or to influence the conduct of others.

Conflicts of interest can arise from stock ownership, board memberships, consulting relationships, and any activity from which an individual derives legal obligations or expects to receive remuneration from an entity outside of SWHHS. Conflicts can arise from many ordinary and appropriate activities; the existence of a conflict does not imply wrong doing on anyone's part.

When a conflict arises the individual must recognize and disclose it. Some relations may create an appearance of conflict; which shall also be disclosed so public confidence is maintained.

A Conflict of Interest Disclosure Questionnaire will be filed annually, by each Board member, Administrator, and Supervisor of SWHHS.

See Administrative Policy 12.

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APPENDIX

General Agency Information

The agency is separated into the following units/programs: Social Services; Income Maintenance; Child Support/Fraud; Accounting/Collections; Clerical; Information Technology; Nursing; Health Education; and Environmental Health. The agency keeps staff well informed and has a system in place to communicate all information. The Director, Deputy Director, Public Health Division Director, and Social Services Division Director meet bi-weekly to discuss overall agency business and future topics for the supervisors meeting. The Director, the Deputy Director, Public Health Division Director, and Social Services Division Director meet bi-weekly with the supervisors. Each unit supervisor holds meetings with their staff, but the frequency of those meetings are set by the unit supervisor and determined by need. Staff meetings are held in each location following each monthly Board meeting.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) sends bulletins and other publications to the SWHHS. Most of these are sent electronically and are available through the Department of Human Service's website. Bulletins are discussed at the bi-weekly supervisor meetings. Supervisors forward bulletins to staff and they are also discussed at individual unit meetings. Also, there are state-wide conferences that staff members have the opportunity to attend.

Monthly Working Trial Balance Process

On a rotating basis each month, the Fiscal Officers prints a "Treasurer's Cash Trial Balance" from the IFSpi system. This report is compared to the check registers to ensure receipts and disbursements balance for the month. If there are any differences, they are investigated and corrections are made.

The Governing Board is given a copy of the "Treasurer's Cash Trial Balance", "Trial Balance Sheet", and check register monthly. Fiscal Manager balances this amount with the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer's office. If there is a discrepancy, both offices work together to balance. In addition, the Governing Board is given the IFSpi report "statement of Revenues and Expenditures". This way the Governing Board is seeing figures directly from IFSpi and is directly approving the financial report.

General Fund Balance (Cash Basis)

The general fund balance fluctuates throughout the year based on the timing of the receipt of revenues. SWHHS receives more revenues in the third and fourth quarter, compared to the second and fourth quarter. This is directly reflected on the timing of payments from the six counties for tax levy monies. The general fund balance (cash basis) is monitored monthly and reported at each Board meeting. If the balance is below two million dollars the amount of expenses is closely monitored by the Fiscal Manager. If at any time the Fiscal Manager feels that the balance will become \$500,000 or less, bills are held until the next check run. Before this happens, a couple of other things happen prior.

All Accounting Technicians report an approximate amount of bills owing in their possession. The payroll date and amount is taken into consideration. The check register balance is reviewed. Then the Fiscal Manager discusses the issue with the Director and Deputy Director and they make a joint decision.

If bills are held, only bills that will not become past due or create fees or interest are held. All bills that are due within that check run time will be paid. This procedure will continue as long as the general fund in cash basis is low.

Chart of Accounts

Occasionally during the year, a new chart of account that will need to be added to the IFSpi system. When an account is added, the Fiscal Manager or a Fiscal Officer will check the COFARS manual to determine what the code should be and then will check the chart of accounts to make sure that number is available. The Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officer will add accounts to IFSpi and SSIS where appropriate. The Accounting Technicians use form AC#004 to request the element and chart of accounts title when they feel the need for an additional account or change to an existing account. Any Agency Supervisor may request a change or addition to the chart of accounts. The Fiscal Manager will either approve or disapprove all requests. The account will then be added by the Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officer.

After the accounts are entered, they have to be mapped to the proper line item in the working trial balance. The Fiscal Manager and Fiscal Officer work together to ensure correct mapping for all accounts are completed. All accounts are reviewed through printing of the GASB 34 audit list from IFSpi on an annual basis or more frequently as needed.

Office Supplies/Administrative Expenses

When regular office supplies are needed in Marshall, the employees will notify the Office Services Supervisor. The front desk office support staff in Ivanhoe, Slayton, Luverne, Pipestone, and Redwood handles this for the respective office. Major purchases (\$200.00 or over) go through the Office Services Supervisor and the Director. Supplies are ordered when needed.

The items are received from the vendor, along with an invoice. The invoice and the items received are compared to each other to verify that the department received all items. The supplies are then either placed in the supply cabinet, or they are distributed to the requesting party. The Office Services Supervisor approves all of these invoices and sends them to accounting for payment with the purchase order attached.

The supervisors, the Director, Public Health Division Director, Social Services Division Director and the Deputy Director can also sign off approving the invoices for payment.

Administrative claims are received and examined for correctness by the Executive Committee, Fiscal Manager, Office Services Supervisor, or Fiscal Officers, dated and signed off on and sent to accounting for payment. If there is a carry forward balance on a bill, the issue is investigated by Accounting Technician, Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officer who, verifies possible previous payments.

Travel requests are signed when approved. They are not attached to the bills but are consulted when the bills come through. Agency cars are available for use and Microsoft Outlook is used to track the applicable information. For only the use of the Wright Express cards located in the agency vehicles, an itemized receipt is not needed. This information is available and retrievable via the website for the vendor, WEX. The appropriate Supervisor and Accounting Technician verifies information on the employee's requests for reimbursements with the information in Outlook. Fiscal Officers may sign off on routine bills at their respective office locations, such as monthly copier maintenance (bills that are consistent in amounts and do not vary). All other claims must be approved by a supervisor (indicated by initials, employee number and date.)

The Accounting Technician ensures mathematical accuracy of all claims. Any material changes to the employee reimbursement forms are sent back to the appropriate supervisor to be discussed with the employee. Approved claims are coded by an Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer and then entered by another Accounting Technician into IFSpi. Batch tape totals of the bills are compared to IFSpi totals for data entry accuracy.

It is the practice at year end to not prepay payables. If a bill comes in at year end for the next year it is held, and paid in the first check run for the next year.

The signature needed on any bill may be executed through the process of e-signature. This is equivalent to an original document.

See Administrative Policy 21.

Social Services Expenses

For the Social Services program payments, a need is first determined by a social worker; a service arrangement is prepared for most Social Service costs and entered into Social Service Information System (SSIS) by the social worker or case aide. A service arrangement is created in SSIS by the social worker or case aide, approved by a Social Services Supervisor, and forwarded to the Accounting Department to be printed and mailed to the vendor for signature. For the time frame of services on the service arrangement, pre-coded vouchers/invoices are printed and are enclosed with the arrangement. Once the service arrangement is signed and returned by the vendor, accounting approves the "payment" part of the arrangement in SSIS. (Social Service Supervisors approve the "service" part prior to being mailed to the vendor.) The vendor-signed service arrangement is then routed to the social worker for filing in the client case file.

When payment is to be requested by a vendor, the vendor completes the pre-printed, pre-coded claim vouchers which were provided along with the service arrangement. Vouchers must be signed and dated by the vendor before payment can be made, and no payments are made until the vendor-signed service arrangement has been returned to the accounting department (*except for vendors of State "mandated services" --see that section below.) Upon receipt of vouchers/bills, they are audited for accuracies and corrections are made as needed. When a voucher/bill has service dates of more than the most recent month of services, SSIS payment history is checked for potential duplication. There also is an edit report in SSIS that is done before submitting a batch to IFSpi. That report also shows potential duplicate payments for the same dates of service, same vendor, and/or same client. If there actually is a duplicated payment, then the current voucher/bill is pulled from

the batch and not paid, and totals are adjusted accordingly. Contact with the social worker is made when any voucher is contradictory to the service arrangement and/or when a voucher comes in and there is no service arrangement in SSIS.

There are some payments that do not have service arrangements and/or SSIS pre-printed/pre-coded payment vouchers. These requests for payments are for State "mandatory services" and required payments by counties for chemically Dependent detoxification services, and state-operated facilities or medical hospitals for mental health Hold Orders or Poor Relief services for inpatient clients or various bills paid on behalf of clients. These vouchers/bills are signed and dated by a Social Services Supervisor for payment approval.

After entry of vouchers/bills, an Accounting Technician reviews the keyed-in vouchers and balances the computer control total to the total of the vouchers/bills. In SSIS, there is an interface process of payments to IFSpi where warrants/checks and warrant registers are processed. When an Accounting Technician keys in a payment batch in SSIS, that batch must be interfaced to IFSpi.

MA Transportation/Insurance Payments

The Accounting Technician receives the MA reimbursement requests from the Transportation Coordinator. They review the reimbursement form for proper approvals, and proof the math calculations, recording corrections as is needed. The Accounting Technicians prepare payments for Medicare and Cost Effective Insurance reimbursements. Transportation is paid every ~~Friday~~Monday with the regular weekly check run and the monthly premium insurance premium reimbursements ~~are~~is paid the Friday following SWHHS's Board meeting. —Claiming is billed per line and submitted through MN-IT's for claim reimbursement. This is done for each client for MA transportation and related expenses that are claimable. All claims are tracked to ensure SWHHS receives all funds due.

Credit Card

The agency has credit cards held by certain employees of SWHHS, per policy. These credit cards are utilized to make approved purchases. An itemized receipt is collected and given to the Fiscal Manager. Each month when the bill is received, the receipts are matched up to the bill and paid from the appropriate chart of account.

See Administrative Policy 5.

Check Processing

Accounting Technician prints the checks after processing is complete. The check stock is kept in the Marshall office, separate from the printer (the office is always locked when no one is present.) One copy of the warrant register, one copy of the abbreviated register and one two copies for of the Audit List for Board are printed.

After each check run, the checks and warrant register are reviewed by another Accounting

Technician or Fiscal Manager to ensure that the correct bank account has been selected. The reviewing individual puts the date and their name initials on the bottom right hand corner of the first page of the warrant register using their electronic signature. ~~Warrant registers are provided then to and approved/signed by the Agency Director, Deputy Director, Social Services Division Director, or Public Health Division Director. The warrant register is scanned into imaging after appropriate signatures. The warrant register is emailed to the Agency Director, Deputy Director, Social Services Division Director, or Public Health Division Director for electronic signature and they email the register back to the accounting technician. The warrant register is scanned into imaging after appropriate signatures.~~

The abbreviated register is given to the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer's office, along with the checks to obtain the signature on each check of the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer.

The checks are mailed to the vendors via US Postal mail by the Accounting Technician. The person scheduled for PP (positive pay) that week is required to submit the ACH through the Bremer Bank Online Banking. The transfer is completed, the confirmation page is printed and scanned to the back of the signed warrant register. An email is then sent to the accounting department stating that the check run is complete. The Accounting Technician marks "reviewed by" on the appropriate print voucher after verifying all necessary documents have been scanned in through the imaging program. The print vouchers are scanned in through the imaging program by check date. If a warrant/check is to be picked up, a proper form is required (AC#003). This is done only in extenuating circumstances and warrant/check is only given to the requesting staff. The Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officer transmits the check batch file to the Bremer Bank positive pay file.

The Audit List for Board is given to the Office Services Supervisor or Executive Assistant to provide to the Governing Board. The Governing Board reviews the report and if there is a concern, the claims are available for review in the accounting department. The listings are not signed by anyone.

POSITIVE PAY

Positive pay is operated through the agency banking system (Bremer). The Positive Pay system allows users to create a file to upload to their bank for use with the bank's Positive Pay programs. Every check run is uploaded into the SWHHS Bremer account.

This is a Fraud Management service. With Positive Pay Management, SWHHS provides Bremer a list of checks issued. As checks are presented for payment, the dollar amount and check number fields are compared to our list of issued checks and an exception report is produced for any unmatched items. The following business day, we are able to view any exceptions or Paid Not Issued items and make "Pay" or "Return" decisions through the Positive Pay Management System.

This process is monitored via e-mails received from Bremer bank by the Deputy Director, Fiscal Manager, Fiscal Officers and the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer.

Vendors

An Accounting Technician requests a new/change vendor be added/changed to IFSpi vendor file as needed, using form AC#002. All requests will be entered immediately by the assigned Fiscal Officer. If the assigned Fiscal Officer is unavailable the Accounting Technician will then direct their request to another Fiscal Officer or the Fiscal Manager. The vendor request form is sent via e-mail. All vendor forms are printed, signed and dated when vendors are entered/changed. The forms are scanned into imaging to be indexed appropriately.

When appropriate the Accounting Technician will send the new vendor a W-9 form to be completed and returned to SWHHS. A reminder is placed out 60 days on their Outlook calendar for tracking purposes. If the W-9 is not received from the vendor an additional notice is sent to that vendor. When the W-9 is received, the form AC#002 is completed by the Accounting Technician to have that vendor information updated in IFSpi by the Fiscal Officer or Fiscal Manager.

The Fiscal Manager will complete periodic monthly reviews of the vendor added/changed listing. The Deputy Director runs the "Vendor Added/Change Report" from IFSpi quarterly. It is reviewed and any questions or concerns are addressed with the Accounting Technician and Fiscal Officer or Fiscal Manager who added the vendor. When completely reviewed it is initialed and dated in the upper right hand corner.

VENDOR REBATE OR REWARD TRACKING

In the rare occurrence that a vendor offers a rebate or reward in response to a particular purchase or purchases, an employee must not gain personally from it. If the application to receive the award does not prohibit businesses from participating, forward the application and information to the Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officers for completion, along with any required proofs of purchase. The paperwork will be forwarded to the accounting department.

If the rebate is in the form of a check, it will be made payable to SWHHS. It will be receipted into the account that the expense was paid. If the rebate is in the form of a debit card, the bearer of the card will be determined by the Division Director of that program. The card must be used only for allowed business expenses and the receipts saved, which will be filed in the accounting department along with the application paperwork. In the case of a hotel which may offer a free night's stay or a restaurant which may offer a free meal, that reward must be used for an approved trip or meal during the course of business, not for personal gain.

Capital Assets

Additions to capital assets are normally initiated by the department heads involved and authorized by the Director to present for Board approval. For equipment valued over \$50,000, sealed bids are solicited per Minnesota Statute. It is the primary responsibility of the Fiscal Manager to document depreciation of capital assets.

Additions are supported with the vendor invoice, purchase order, and payment in IFSpi. The Fiscal Manager keeps a spreadsheet updated with additions and removals of capital assets \$5,000 or greater. Funds are listed separately for Human Services and Health Services. This is updated normally when the change happens and at the end of the year. The Office Services Supervisor enters into the AS400 all items \$200 or greater and these are tagged. Information added to this system includes the tag#, department, county #, worker #, description, serial #, and brand/model. Month/year acquired, estimated life, original cost (including tax), and purchase order #. Retirements are documented on both the spreadsheet and the AS400.

A Capital Asset expense report is run from the IFSpi system, all appropriate warrant vouchers and supporting documentation is copied and then added to the Capital Asset report by the Fiscal Manager. The Fiscal Manager contacts the Office Support Supervisor for item number and the Deputy Director for years of depreciation for automobile purchase; or IT Supervisor for item number and years of depreciation for equipment purchase. A physical inventory will be completed annually by comparing the capital assets to the asset listing.

Budget Process

The budget process for the year begins with submission from department heads to the Director usually by the end of May. IFSpi budget sheets with figures for the last 2 years, plus current based on revenue and expenditure accounts and the Allocation Bulletin are used to determine amounts for the proposed budget. Beginning in January and until the August Board meeting, the Director, Deputy Director, Public Health Division Director, Social Services Division Director, and the Supervisors analyze and prepare the proposed budget. During the August board meeting, the Board is presented with a proposed budget. The Board will normally approve the preliminary levy amounts in the budget at the August board meeting. In turn, this information is passed on to the respective County Boards for approval by mid-September. The process is completed within this timeframe to ensure the tax levy will be on the tax rolls for the proper year. The final budget is approved at the December Board. Once approved by the Board, the Fiscal Manager approves the budget in IFSpi on the first working day in January, activating it to the working budget for the year.

Expenditure budgets are based on actual projected costs of operations. Inflating projected expenditures to provide a cushion for expenditures that may occur is strongly discouraged. Southwest Health and Human Services continually works to reduce expenditures and increase revenues during the year.

There have not been budget amendments in the past. Any overages in budget have been absorbed through the use of reserves.

The Fiscal Manager enters the proposed and approved budget into SWHHS's system, Integrated Financial System (IFSpi). The department supervisors, Deputy Director, Public Health Division Director, Social Services Division Director and the Director review the information entered. Only the Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officer has security to update the budgetary information. The Director and Deputy Director have inquiry access to the budgetary information.

The Director, Deputy Director, Public Health Division Director, Social Services Division Director and Fiscal Manager regularly compare budget to expense and revenue throughout the year. In addition, all Department Supervisors review their related program expenditures on a monthly basis. Any discrepancies are reported to the accounting department and any necessary adjustments/corrections are completed. The Governing Board is given monthly updates at the regularly scheduled Board meetings.

General Receipting and Recording

SWHHS receives money at all six locations (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock) through various sources such as over the counter, US postal mail, and EFT.

All money received has a written receipt by an Office Support Specialist. The top copy is given to the client if received over the counter or attached to the money if received via US postal service. A report is pulled from the on-line banking system on a daily basis and given to the Accounting Technicians. The collections are recorded directly into our cash register receipting program by an Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer.

Money received in Lincoln or Murray County is transported to Lyon County for receipting into cash register. Money receipted into the cash register in Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, or Rock County isare transported weeklyperiodically to Lyon County. The cash register batch for that location is closed and the money prepared for transportation to Lyon County using form Ac#022.

Transporting money to Lyon County is done by all money being accounted for. Form Ac#022 is completed by the Office Support Specialist, Accounting Technician, or Fiscal Officer in that location. The staff that transports the money, verifies the amount on the form AC#022, then signs for it. The money is transported to Lyon County in an interoffice envelope. The money is then counted by the Office Support Specialist or Office Support Supervisor in Lyon County and again signed for. The money goes directly into a zipper envelope where it is locked up and the Accounting Technician will pick it up on a daily basis. The original Form Ac#022 is directed to the Accounting Department and scanned into the imaging system.

On Tuesday, Friday, and the last working day of the month, all batches with money in Lyon County are closed out and deposited into the SWHHS's bank account. The Accounting Technician prints a Bank Deposit/Cash reconciliation reporttotal from the cash register and verifies that amount with the actual money being deposited. The money/EFT and the report are-is taken to the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer's office for them to receipt and transport to the bank for deposit. The Bank Deposit/Cash reconciliation reportA record of the receipt is given back to the Accounting Technician by the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer's office with a receipt showing the dollars deposited. The amount is verified with the amount SWHHS's records show as being deposited. The amount is recorded in SWHHS's manual, electronic check register. All receipts, and the receipt registers, and the report are uploaded or scanned into the imaging system.

Reimbursement for Services Monitoring

After monthly and quarterly reports have been submitted to DHS for reimbursement purposes, the EFT's are monitored to make sure reimbursements are received for all submissions processed.

Identifying State and Federal Dollars

All dollars received from DHS via EFT are receipted in based on the invoice code provided. All dollars that come into SWHHS from DHS are coded per the DHS Bulletin, "DHS Publishes Standard Invoice Field Codes for Calendar Year 20__". This bulletin is updated annually. It indicates all intergovernmental, state, and federal dollars associated with Human Services.

All dollars that come into SWHHS from MDH are receipted into the appropriate grant. There is no document from MDH or coding on check to indicate monies as intergovernmental, state, or federal dollars. At this time SWHHS accounting department is working on their own to determine what each of the dollars received are. Some have been determined and a proper chart of account(s) has been set up, while ~~There still remain some monies~~ still remain ~~that are unidentified at this time.~~ MDH does not have one department to contact for these questions as each is coming out of a different unit. SWHHS will continue to work toward all monies being identified and properly coded.

Collection of Money after Hours

Clinics are held at SWHHS's office in Redwood Falls three to five times per year, based on number of people signed up. There are a minimum of 10 and maximum of 20 people in each two session clinic. All attendees must pay a fee of \$80.00 the first night of attendance in order to stay. \$120.00 is charged if they miss the first session and are attending the second. In some cases, the additional \$40.00 is waived based on the Probation officer's reasoning for attendee missing the session.

Collection of fee happens from 5:30 – 6:00 PM by the Chemical Dependency Counselor, for SWHHS. The money is collected and a receipt is written from the SWHHS's receipt book. The white copy goes to the attendee; yellow copy goes with the money. The type of payment (cash/check) is noted on the master list of possible attendees. The total money then is placed into an envelope, sealed, signed and dated by the CD Counselor and placed through a slot into the safe located in the building. A copy of the master list is made, signed and dated by the CD Counselor sent to an Accounting Technician, indicating that there is money in the safe.

The Accounting Technician opens the safe and receipts the money into the cash register and amounts are verified against the master list for the clinic. A separate sign in sheet is kept with the CD Counselor as well for further verification if needed.

MA Recoveries

When a payment is determined to be a MA recovery, it is receipted into the cash register with a copy of the CL#033 form attached to the receipt and is deposited into the bank account. The

Accounting Technician makes a copy of the form CL#033 and gives the copy and a copy of the check to the Fiscal Officer to process the MA recovery.

The Fiscal Officer logs onto the "Medicaid Management Information System" (MMIS) using the assigned sign on and secure password. The appropriate county's sign on needs to be used according to the county of financial responsibility of the recovery. The Fiscal Officer reports receipt of funds 30 days from receiving the funds to allow for payment of all approved final expenses. The Fiscal Officer will also enter the payment portion of the form CL#033 into the MMIS System against MA Recovery monies as a negative amount.

The types of MA Recoveries are:

EA - Estate Affidavit
EP - Estate Probate

The Fiscal Manager or the Fiscal Officer monitors monthly the Health Care Invoice to ensure we are being billed regularly for the state's share of the recoveries. This is also monitored monthly through the budget spreadsheets.

Claiming Process:

Accounting Technicians process and maintain the following state programs; Waivers/AC and TCM/case management (TCM programs include MH-Adult, MH-Child, child welfare, relocation, VA/DD), Rule 5 and care coordination mainly for reimbursement of purchased items and direct time of case managers. Claims are processed through SSIS (clients on MA); Availity; Nightingale Notes and MN-IT's. The following programs are submitted by the following: MA Access Transportation (MN-IT's) TCM – CW, MH, VA/DD, DD-Screenings (SSIS); Care Coordination (Nightingale Notes) & TCM (Nightingale Notes & SSIS); and CD Assessments (Nightingale Notes).

Nightingale Notes claims are submitted to Accounting by case workers and pulled from SSIS, Social Services Supervisors, and Health Services for billing purposes.

Those claims submitted through SSIS and MN-IT's, have remittance advices from DHS. Claims submitted through Nightingale Notes, have remittance advices from the Managed Care Organizations, available through Availity. These advices are saved showing reimbursements and denials. RA's (rejects/denials) are reviewed in SSIS. Supervisors and/or Social Workers are contacted to make appropriate adjustments in MMIS, so claim can be re-submitted to DHS for reimbursement. Resubmission is done in SSIS. For claims that are denied through IGI and Availity, they are reviewed and corrected appropriately for resubmission for payment.

The Accounting Technician processes Public Health claims produced through Nightingale Notes. Claims are then submitted through DHS MN-IT's and Availity and some statements are mailed to payers. Once payments are received, they are posted in Nightingale Notes to the appropriate client's account for the corresponding date(s) of service. For claims that are denied, they are reviewed and corrected for resubmission to the appropriate payer or written off when uncollectable.

Revenue regenerated through this reporting, is receipted into each program where appropriate.

Manual Journal Entries:

A manual journal entry is only used when an alternative method through IFSpi is not possible, such as “negative receipt” or “manual warrant/void/correction”. Manual journal entries are tracked through an electronic tracking form and are entered and posted by the Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officer.

All manual journal entries completed by the Fiscal Manager are reviewed and signed off on by the Deputy Director. All manual journal entries completed by the Fiscal Officer are reviewed and signed off on by the Fiscal Manager. The originals are scanned into the imaging system to be indexed appropriately.

Receipt/Disbursement Adjustments

After balancing for the month is completed, the Fiscal Officer(s) and Public Health Program Specialist review the Accounting Activity Report for that month and notes any corrections that need to be made. The Fiscal Officer(s) or Public Health Program Specialist signs off on the changes and sends the corrections to be made to the Accounting Technician on an Account Activity Report with the changes highlighted and the account information showing account numbers. The Accounting Technician enters the corrections into IFSpi using the “Receipt Batches” or M/V/C Batches”. The J/E Data Entry Listing report is printed. The completed corrections and documentation are scanned into imaging to be indexed appropriately.

On occasion there are changes needed per the request of a supervisor. The supervisor requesting the change or moving of receipts or expenses puts the request in writing, indicating what and the amount that is to be moved. This will also indicate where those funds are to be moved to. The supervisor signs off on the documentation and the Accounting Technician makes the needed change to funds. Once completed, the documents are scanned into imaging to be indexed appropriately.

Accrual Codes

SSIS interfaces with IFSpi, accrual codes are added to social services payments in the IFSpi system. Accounting Technicians are responsible for the accrual codes. Accrual codes will be used January and February of each year.

When a payment is made that has a service date from the previous year the payment is marked with one of the following accrual codes:

AP = Accounts payable
DTG = Due to other governments

When receipt money into the IFSpi system that is from the previous year the receipt is marked with one of the following accrual codes:

AR = Accounts receivable

DFG = Due from other governments

The Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officers will review all transactions (receipts/disbursements) to ensure they are properly coded. The IFSpi report "Account Activity with service dates" will be used. This report is signed and dated by the Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officer once completely reviewed and appropriate changes made as needed. All changes will be completed by the Fiscal Manager or a Fiscal Officer.

Contracts with Providers

Our in-house contracts with providers are open ended with standard opt out language. Changes to the contracts are made through addendums or amendments. As of January 2014, model contracts for Home Community Based Services or waived services (CAC, CADI, MRRRC, BI) will be administered and maintained at the State level. EW and AC programs utilize our in-house contract that is renewed yearly. Rates for all the above programs are set by the State.

All contracts include HIPPA, EEOC, Fair hearing/grievance, and safeguard of data language. Liability limits for general and professional liability insurance policy are set as per Minn. Stat. 466.04.

Payroll

The SWHHS Joint Governing Board approves all starting rates of pay for all new employees. Southwest Health and Human Services payroll processing is performed at different levels. Upon Board approval, the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer enters the employee information including rate of pay in each employee's master file. For each new employee, the HR Specialist enters all employee information into the HR System and then interfaces that into the Payroll System. The Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer proofs the information provided by the employee and employee's supervisor which determines the taxes to be withheld, his/her position, work comp code, PERA eligibility, and appropriate department based on the information on the Payroll Enrollment Form and Cafeteria Enrollment Form. The Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer provides the IFSpi formula distribution when applicable for new staff (health services employees formula distribution is determined through an interface process), under the direction of the Deputy Director or Human Resource Specialist. This formula is used to interface the payroll PayLib system to the IFSpi System when the payroll is processed at the end of each pay period. The HR Specialist prepares a report containing any payroll changes and it is reviewed and entered into the payroll system by the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer. Any payroll changes must be into payroll by Monday noon the week of payroll.

Payroll deductions for insurances are entered directly from a copy of the employee's Cafeteria Enrollment Form completed before the beginning of each year or as new employees become eligible. These forms are generated from a web-based human resource program with employee

personnel insurance information listed on it.

Before a payroll is run, the Deputy Director or Human Resource Specialist and the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer review and make necessary adjustments to the billings from the providers of insurance for health care, dental, life and disability. Note adjustments for medical/dental insurance cannot be made on the bill. They normally occur after the fact as an adjustment on a later bill. Real time adjustments can be made on the life insurance bill. Other deductions (such as garnishments and child support) are processed by the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer from official orders. The Deputy Director and Fiscal Manager are the agency representatives served those orders normally via US postal mail.

All employees are paid bi-weekly. The Southwest Health and Human Services Governing Board members are paid bi-weekly following the receipt of their voucher. The Governing Board Per Diem pay is paid through payroll. All Governing Board mileage and other costs are paid through the administrative bill process.

At the end of each pay period, web based timesheets are created by each human services employee, by signing into the web based timesheet program created by Computer Professionals Unlimited. The web based timesheets for all health services employees are created by an interface program pulling the data from Nightingale Notes Dailies into the web based timesheets. The interfacing program was created by Computer Professionals Unlimited. The web based timesheet is accessed by the employee signing in by using their unique ID and password. This web based timesheet is approved by the employee and also by the employee's supervisor. Payroll Disclaimers appear on the screen when being approved. Any errors that are found are relayed back to the employee by the supervisor. The Human Resource Specialist audits all Vacation, Sick, and Comp Time Balances. The Balances are shown on the Employee's pay stub.

Any overtime pay is prior authorized and requires supervisory and Director approval. Any concerns regarding payroll are referred to the Deputy Director and/or Director.

At the end of the year, a report is generated that lists year-end balances in vacation, sick, and comp time banks and year-end rates of pay, which are used in calculating Compensated Absences Liability. The Accounting Technician maintains a spreadsheet that calculates the compensated time absence liability based on the total accrued time to date and what has been paid out over the past few years.

A transaction edit is run on the computer in batches, which is then compared to the time sheets prepared by each employee. If incorrect, the errors are located and reconciled. The HR Specialist performs these tasks.

After the transaction edit has been deemed correct, the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer runs the payroll journal and then another Accounting Technician checks it for errors. (This register does not have any warrant numbers yet.) It also includes taxes, cafeteria contributions and recurring deductions, which are reconciled.

If no errors are located on the payroll journal, the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer runs the

check process which produces the files that print employee direct deposit stubs and vendor checks using direct deposit or electronic funds transfer (EFT). An EFT edit is printed and checked against the payroll journal and also against any new participant's authorization forms. If correct, the file is transferred to Bremer Bank via internet file transfer.

An Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer prints the checks, direct deposit stubs, and the final payroll journal and all necessary reports. ~~A copy is kept in the Marshall office accounting department.~~ The final journal prints the check number and direct deposit number by each employee's net pay. The check stock is always locked in the Marshall accounting department. All Payroll reports are then uploaded to the Payroll imaging system for storage.

SWHHS uses a service from Computer Professionals Unlimited, the office that provides support for the Payroll Paylib system, for accessing Payroll Pay stubs (web based timesheets) instead of printing individual pay stubs and sending them directly to the employee. The Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer still prints out vendor checks and commissioner's checks when necessary. For any employees who are on extended leaves, their direct deposit stub is printed and mailed to each employee via US Postal mail at their home address. The Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer receives a check register listing all check and direct deposits. The Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer stamps the checks with the Auditor/Treasurer's signature. The Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer is the only authorized signatory and maintains custody of the signature plates. The Auditor/Treasurer's Office then emails the Marshall Office Accounting Technicians to come to pick up the signed checks. These checks are either mailed via USPS with proper itemized check remittances or receipted into the IFSpi system and reissued when vendor invoice is received.

With each payroll, the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer runs certain reports. These include a Check Register, Payroll Journal, a summary total by employee, a PERA summary, deductions report by vendor, EFT listing showing trace numbers for the Employee Direct Deposit and various reports that are sent in with vendor checks. Some vendors also require other forms to be completed. A comprehensive checklist is used to assure that all vendors have been paid and all reports run in a timely manner. One of the reports, the PERA salary deduction report, requires routine maintenance and the production of a file transmitted electronically via the intranet into their computer system.

Federal and State withholding figures as shown on the grand total page of the payroll journal are transferred to the IRS and MN Dept. of Revenue, respectively. The State and Federal tax payment is transferred using an ACH debit, which becomes part of the file that includes the employees' pay, Nationwide Retirement Deferred Comp, Valic Deferred Comp, Investors Choice Deferred Comp and PERA. The file also includes the required addendums for the vendors.

A payroll distribution summary report is generated during the next step called "updating the master files". This process distributes wages and benefits for many employees to different funds and/or departments. All the figures are automatically posted to IFSpi as printed on the Payroll Distribution Account Summary. Using this report, the Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer posts total payroll costs to the manual warrant register.

Authorizations for deductions are filed by the vendor for which the deduction is paid. The Deputy

Director or Human Resource Specialist maintains files with all insurance changes and Flexible Benefits. Payroll advances are prohibited. The Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer reports all Quarterly Federal, State and Unemployment insurance withholding and wage reports. The Accounting Technician or Fiscal Officer is also responsible for all year end payroll reporting and to process the end of the year W-2 forms. The 1099's are processed by a different Accounting Technician.

Due to unforeseen problems that may arise, it is always the goal to reach the step in the payroll process that prints the checks and direct deposits stubs and transmits the direct deposit information to Bremer Bank, two days before the payroll date. However, the payroll process must be completed by 5:00 pm Thursday of the payroll week to ensure that the EFT processes correctly and the employees receive their pay in a timely manner.

The Fiscal Manager or Fiscal Officers transmits the check batch file to the Bremer Bank positive pay file on the day the payroll checks are mailed.

Agency Self-Insurance

January 1, 2014, Southwest Health and Human Services began offering employee health insurance through a self-funded account. All premiums are collected by SWHHS and claims are paid to the insurance company upon billing. This fund is monitored by the Deputy Director and reported on to the Governing Board on a quarterly basis. A brief overview is provided to the Governing Board each month at the regularly scheduled meetings. A Health Insurance Benefits committee has been formed to review and make recommendations to the Governing Board annually in regards to the plans, benefits, and premiums. Any reserves in the fund are addressed on an annual basis.

See Administrative Policy 22.

Child Care Payments

Child Care payments are entered in the MEC2 State Centralized Payment System by an Accounting Technician. Paper vouchers are scanned and emailed, by the Office Support staff, to specific Eligibility Workers to approve. These paper payments are entered in the system every Monday after the Eligibility Worker emails the Accounting Technician with approval to pay. and the electronic payments are approved daily. The State approves payments nightly. Before the Accounting Technician approves each electronic voucher he/she must go into the case notes, find the authorized hours, and look at the notes to see which days and how many hours on each of those days has been authorized. If the provider is billing more hours than authorized the electronic voucher can be changed to only the amount authorized. If the provider added notes as to why they added more hours than authorized the Accounting Technician will forward that information to the Eligibility Worker and wait for an answer before approving the voucher. A Child Care Eligibility Worker approves eligibility, and then enters service authorizations into the State System for all clients, which authorizes payment. A Child Care Eligibility Worker must also note specific case notes regarding authorized days as well as the number of hours authorized each day (example: 8 hrs M, T, Th and 6 hrs W, F). This information

will go out with the letter to the provider when eligibility is approved by the Elig Worker. Billing forms are generated by the State System and mailed out to the provider. The provider completes the billing form and mails the form to SWHHS for entry in the State System or the provider will enter their information into MECpro and submit electronically for payment. All applications and verifications are filed in the case file in the case worker's office. Once the billing forms are entered in the State System, the System compares the billing form to the service authorization and then at this point it can accept or reject the payment request. Rejected billing forms are put on hold for review by caseworker. The State then makes the payment directly to the provider and the Income Maintenance Supervisor can access this information. All manual payment requests are approved by an Income Maintenance worker prior to the Accounting Technician processing the payment. Once the paper voucher payments or any manual payments have been made the Accounting Technician will scan the forms into the imaging system.

County Collections Billing

The Collections Officer enters corrections and new accounts on monthly credit and debit spreadsheets. The Accounting Technician will enter these spreadsheets along with the recurring spreadsheets for daycare centers, cobra or retiree insurance premiums, out of home placement fees, and courtesy care into the County Collections System (CCS).

Statements are prepared, printed and mailed once a month by the tenth of each month. Two Accounting Technicians work on preparing these statements. When statements are printed all statements for an entity, that have a credit balance, zero balance or have an administrative charger are reviewed by the Fiscal Manager and/or Collections Officer. After the statements are mailed the Accounting Technicians prepare trial balances or activity reports that are given to the appropriate Department Supervisors to monitor their programs.

Nightingale Notes Billing

Public Health Claiming– The accounts receivable/claiming system for Public Health is one part of a larger time tracking system known as Nightingale Notes. Everyone in the Public Health Department is required to fill out an electronic service form. This form tracks all of their hours (worked, sick, vacation, etc.) along with what they worked on and/or what patients they saw that day. Nightingale Notes is used for billing nursing services to the appropriate insurance companies.

Once all the services are entered for the previous month, the Accounting Technician generates the billing cycle in Nightingale Notes. The Accounting Technician then reviews the claims for inconsistencies or errors. Some pay sources are reviewed for data entry error by generating a report built in Nightingale Note report system i.e. ~~jail nursing contract billing~~—“BluePlus Services that should be Bridgeview”. Any questions are emailed to the staff person with the questionable service. Once reviewed and corrected, the Accounting Technician generates the claim file and submits the batch through Availity for most pay sources and through MN-ITS for the Medical Assistance pay source. Availity will then send back three to four edit reports per batch submitted.

The first report is the acknowledgement report. This is the first level of edits the batch file is processed through that will accept or reject the file. Accounting staff assigned to that task depending on insurance company and/or type of claim researches the reason for rejection to see if something can be corrected at our end. If it is more complicated, Nightingale Notes Support is contacted to troubleshoot the issue. Once corrected the batch file is generated again and submitted through Availity.

The second set of Availity edit reports is Immediate Batch Text Response (IBT). This report will list all the claims in the batch and list at claim level if the claim has been accepted or rejected. The third set of Availity edit reports is Electronic Batch Report (EBT). This report will list all the claims in the batch and list at claim level if the claim has been accepted or rejected.

The fourth set of Availity edit reports is Delayed Payer Report (DPT). Not all payers return delayed responses.

Rejected claims for all these edits are reviewed by the Accounting Technician who uploaded the claim file, determines the corrective action, makes the correction and resubmits.

Once a claim has been processed by the insurance company, an Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) or Explanation of Payment (EOP) is sent to the clearinghouse (MN-IT, MN E Connect, or Availity). These reports show the details of the payments made, partial payments or denial of the claim. The ERA's are uploaded to Nightingale Notes, so the detail of the payment or non-payment is linked to the corresponding claim. Each payment is posted in Nightingale Notes to show the claim was paid or the next subscriber should be billed if necessary. Claims that were not paid are researched to determine if they can be corrected and rebilled. The Accounting Technician may call the insurance company for assistance and explanations.

Radon & Water Testing Kits Procedures

When the general public purchases either a short-term or long-term radon testing kit or a water testing kit at the front counter, they pay a nominal fee for any type of kit to the Office Support staff. The fee is charged to discourage misuse by customers, to recover part of the cost of offering the kits, and to encourage customers to actually use the kits. Office Support staff receipts the payment into the receipt book & gives the customer the white copy. The yellow copy goes with the cash or check and is given to the accounting unit.

Water testing bottles are supplied to regular customers, such as city and rural water systems and construction companies, at no charge.

The charge for the water test itself is based on which test or tests are performed with the prices listed on the test request form. The general public makes their payment when dropping off their request form and sample. When the water testing is performed for a regular customer as described previously, a bill will be sent to them by the sanitarian on a monthly basis. The

sanitarian monitors the receipt of payments by referencing a list provided by the Fiscal Manager on a monthly basis.

QUICK REFERENCES GUIDE

Policies

- Administrative Policy 2
- Administrative Policy 3
- Administrative Policy 4
- Administrative Policy 5
- Administrative Policy 7
- Administrative Policy 12
- Administrative Policy 21
- Administrative Policy 22
- Personnel Policy 5
- Personnel Policy 6

Forms

- Ac#002
- Ac#003
- Ac#022
- Ac#043
- Ag#100
- Ag#101
- Cl#033

DHS Bulletins (available on DHS website)

<http://mn.gov/dhs/>

COFARS Manual