

Forest County Social Service Committee Meeting
May 18, 2020
County Board Room
5:30 p.m.

Members present: Cheri Collins, Bill Chaney, Scott Goode, David Campbell, Ron Karl

Absent:

Others Present: Cindy Gretzinger

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Collins.
2. **Approval of Amended Agenda:** Motion by Campbell to approve agenda, seconded by Goode. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Approval of minutes from Social Services Meeting held March 17, 2020:** Motion to approve minutes made by Campbell, seconded by Goode. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Department Updates:**
 - CPS and Juvenile Delinquency-Committee informed of CPS cases versus Child Welfare cases and the different services offered in each of these cases. Updated on current number of open investigations and open CPS/CW cases. Informed of the current number of children being monitored and types of placements. Discussion on Juvenile Delinquency and the process. Informed committee of the different placements for Juvenile Delinquency cases. Request made on how many Juvenile Delinquency cases there are. This will be shared at the next Social Services meeting. Discussion on which staff are working on these cases.
 - Foster Care and Kinship-Committee informed of May being Foster Care month. Brenda Ashbeck has been doing a great job of promoting foster care. Ads are being run in the newspaper to encourage individuals/families to become licensed. Discussion of the previous ad that was run at the movie theaters and that it is not currently being run. Backpacks with items for children in foster care have been donated and are being given out to children in need. Informed committee of the foster care closet that was established. Committee informed of foster care, Child Placing Agencies and Group Homes/Treatment Foster Homes. Approximate rates for these placements was shared with the committee. Also shared the approximate rates for placements for the juveniles under a juvenile delinquency order. Explained Kinship and the payments that are paid out.
 - Economic Support-Committee updated that the state has postponed renewals at this time because of COVID for food share, medical assistance, badgercare, etc....

Informed committee that once the renewals need to take place there is the possibility that the Economic Support worker will be working overtime to get the applications and renewals completed. Explained the funding received for the Economic Support positions.

- Request made to forward a listing of Social Services employees and their job functions to the committee members.

5. Discuss and If Appropriate, Take Action on Posting the CST/APS Position:

CST/APS position explained. Funding for the CST position was explained. Committee informed that the position had been posted twice previously and was not filled therefore would need to be reposted. Motion by Campbell to have the CST/APS position posted, seconded by Campbell. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Fiscal Updates: Committee informed of the last several years of employee turnover and audit findings for the fiscal department. Committee informed of the County working with an Auditor for the findings and compliance. Discussion on the audit that just took place and that there may be findings due to the turnover in staff again throughout the year. Committee recommends continued work with the Auditor for training and compliance. Request maybe meeting with Auditor weekly and a monthly update to be shared on any progress or concerns. Committee informed that the plan is to have the auditor come to the office to meet with staff when the COVID guidelines are lifted. Discussed costs that have been incurred and need to continue working with Auditor. Committee was given an update on the costs incurred in April for each program in Social Services.

7. Discussion and Updates on items being worked on:

- MOU with Human Service Center regarding children/juveniles under a mental health commitment who may also be in need of Social Services involvement under Chapter 48 or 938.
- 161 Agreement with Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe has been in place since 1993 and over the past year an updated 161 Agreement has been being worked on by the Attorney's, Tribe and Social Services. Review continues at this time.
- Child Care Grant has been being run through Social Services however currently the county does not have any individuals licensed. Committee informed that earlier this year there was discussion of contracting with an agency that will do all the training, licensing and marketing for child care providers. An email was received today that stated that they were not able to complete the training as was expected so they will need to wait on contracting with Forest County until possibly January 1st 2021.
- Social Services Policies are needing to be developed and/or reviewed. Committee informed that as they are developed/reviewed they will be brought to the committee for review and approval.

8. **Discussion and If Appropriate, Take Action on Resolution and Mutual Aid Agreement for COVID 19**-Committee was informed that due to the COVID crisis there was discussion between Vilas, Oneida and Forest County DSS for the counties to help one another out if needed. Explained that if a county has staff that become ill then that county could reach out to the other counties for assistance. There will be no charge to the other county however costs incurred could be submitted as a COVID expense for possible reimbursement. Committee informed that the counties have worked together in the past as needed however the Mutual Aid Agreement and Resolution are for COVID purposes. Motion by Campbell to approve the Resolution and forward on to the County Board, seconded by Chaney. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Discussion of Future Meeting Dates, Times and Agenda Items**-Committee informed that the Social Services meeting times had been scheduled for the entire 2020 year. Committee was asked if Tuesdays work for meeting times and committee agreed to continue with the proposed meeting times of Tuesday at 5:30pm. Next meeting will be held June 23rd at 5:30pm.
10. **Adjourn**-Motion by Karl, seconded by Goode to Adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.