

COMMITTEE: SOCIAL SERVICES
DATE: TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Tina Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anderson, Campbell, Karl, Gretzinger

Absent: Collins, Goode

Others Present: Jody Jensen, Social Services; Tamara Feest, Human Service Center; Michelle Gobert, UW Extension

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Campbell to approve the agenda as presented, second by Karl. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD ON APRIL 26, 2021

Motion by Karl to approve the April 26, 2021 minutes, second by Campbell. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments

COALITION DISCUSSION

Gobert shared a diagram of the coalitions that Forest County is a part of. Some of the services or entities are overlapping and may be duplicated services. Partnership Coalition is requesting to have Social Services represented on their coalition. Discussion regarding the efforts of working on suicide prevention. Concerns were raised that the entities involved are not always sure of the process for those that are in a mental health crisis. Some of the Dispatchers were not aware of the Mental Health Crisis Screeners and how to get ahold of them. Schools have had issues when they have tried to get a screener and have not had a response or the response is several hours later. Gobert also handed out the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data that compiled. Gobert pointed out several different concerns found while compiling the data related to CPS, delinquency and out-of-home placements.

HUMAN SERVICE UPDATES

Feest was present at the meeting and shared that HSC has a few vacancies to fill. They were fully staffed only for a few weeks over the past several years. Feest discussed the fact that there have been some referrals to HSC by Social Services in which the DSS office was used for telehealth appointments. Feest will be at the June County Board meeting to give a presentation to the board. At this point in their reconciliation for 2020 it appears that they will end the year with approximately a \$680,000 surplus. She believes that this is primarily due to COVID. With

COVID occurring there were extra grants that were received, expenses were down especially with travel as staff were meeting clients virtually and trainings were held virtually. Hospitalizations were also down from previous years. HSC will have auditors there next week.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- FISCAL-Audit is said to have gone better this year. Bridgett from CLA continues to work with DSS. Bridgett will be coming in May to meet with DSS. End of the month report given and explained.
- CPS and JUVENILE DELINQUENCY-Jensen presented committee with the number of open Child Welfare, Child Abuse and Neglect Investigation and Juvenile Delinquency cases.
- FOSTER CARE and KINSHIP- Committee informed of the number of kids that are placed out of home at this time.
- CST-No report.
- ECONOMIC SUPPORT-No changes to report.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PARENTING TRAINING CURRICULUM

Discussed that agency needs a staff member to be trained in parenting. Discussed that Family First is going to be a requirement of agencies prior to removing children when possible. Briefly explained the program and the fact that New Horizons can provide intensive in-home supervision however they do not have employees for this area therefore it is going to be the responsibility of Social Services to ensure this is being done. With Kayla trained on the parenting program this would be helpful. Committee informed of the advantage of providing the classes internally so families could be reunited sooner or prevent the need for removal. Committee was updated on the approximate cost of the training as being \$1000 and it can currently be completed on-line. Portion of the training will be taken from the DCF budget and another portion from the CST budget. Feest informed committee there is a grant that was just put out by DCF that could be applied for and may be able to pay for the training or help with the services in the home. Feest will send this information to Jensen as a letter of intent needs to be submitted by Monday. Motion by Karl, seconded by Campbell for the Parenting Class training. Request to have Jensen and Feest work on letter of intent and use funds from that if possible.

CLOSED SESSION

Gretzinger made a motion to go into closed session and motion was seconded by Karl. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

- CST
- CPS Candidate

RECONVENE TO TAKE ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE ON MATTERS DISCUSSED

Motion by Karl, seconded by Campbell to reconvene from closed session. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

- No Action taken on CST or CPS Candidate

POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

CST Interviews

Update on HSC discussion regarding crisis calls

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting will be held on June 8, 2021 at 4:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Campbell, seconded by Karl to adjourn. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Social Services meeting.

DRAFT