

## SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: SOCIAL SERVICES  
DATE: 5/14/2024  
TIME: 4:30 P.M.  
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARDROOM

### CALL TO ORDER

Skallerud called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and read the agenda.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Augustin, Goode, Karl, Skallerud, Weber

Absent: Gretzinger

Others Present: Tracy Schumacher, Melissa Grogg, Margaret Calhoun

### APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Karl, second by Goode to approve the agenda as amended. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### APPROVE SOCIAL SERVICES MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 23, 2024 MEETING

Motion by Augustin to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2024 Social Services meeting, second by Weber. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Margaret Calhoun presented information on the Consortium, its structure, and purpose. She offered to answer questions and gave her opinion on the need of filling the open IM position.

### DISCUSSION ON VACANT INCOME MAINTENANCE WORKER

Tracy would like to make the open IM position LTE to help protect Margaret's current position and give the department some flexibility with the restructuring of Human Service Center and ADRC. Consortium director says their board must approve LTE position. Skallerud says there is nothing in our contract with the consortium that states that worker cannot be LTE, it only states how many hours we must use.

Motion by Goode to fill open IM position as LTE for remainder of the year, second by Karl. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### DIRECTOR UPDATES

#### Grant updates

- A. CST grant was approved. There were 42 agencies that qualified so the award amount changed to \$5,800. Department will have enough to fund the parent library, outdoor play space, and sensory items in the family room.

## SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

- B. The “Putting Families First” grant has been applied for and should be awarded to the county. This is a non-competitive grant to help prevent removal of children from their homes.
- C. The director is looking for a substance abuse prevention grant for school students. Additionally, a proposal for the release of some opioid settlement, and looking into any available funding that the Community Coalition may provide. There have been 2 more students expelled from school due to THC products. One elementary, and one Middle School. Schumacher states that the substance abuse program would be voluntary for such cases. Skallerud suggest the possibility of pursuing these as GIPS cases.

Motion by Goode to approve Tracy Schumacher applying for any grants or funding the department qualifies for. Second by Weber. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### Use of County Car

- A. Tracy Schumacher states that we have families in the Newald/Popple area. There are workers currently passing through those areas to get to the courthouse each day. It would save the department time and money to allow the workers to drive the county car home on the nights before these pickups. The Committee agrees as long as there is a written agreement in place stating it will not be driven for personal use.

Motion by Weber to approve workers taking county car home over night. Second by Augustin. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### DISCUSSION ON HOMELESS SHELTER

Tracy Schumacher states that DSS was made aware of some issues at New Hope that are creating a burden on county funds. The shelter is taking in people from surrounding counties, sometimes further. New Hope does not require a drug test to be taken. These people often end up becoming APS clients when they are unable to care for themselves, costing money to get the court process started. Corporation Counsel is going to work on finding a way to get some of these people transferred back to their home counties. No action.

### DISCUSSION ON USE OF BODY CAMERAS/PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Tracy Schumacher states that the workers would like to have this option. They often enter into potentially dangerous situations and are unable to get an officer to attend. When they call dispatch, they are told they cannot send anyone and workers are having to call officers directly to obtain back up. Skallerud suggest involving Sherriff & Justice to attempt resolving this issue. Schumacher states that the use of bodycams would also help in court as proof of conversations. Skallerud suggests using a cloud-based software that would turn workers’ cell phones into bodycams, and possible use of opiate money via DEC team.

Motion by Weber to contact Sherriff & Justice. Second by Goode. All present voting (AYE). Motion Carried.

## SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

### UPDATES ON HUMAN SERVICE MEETINGS

Director has no new updates at this time.

### CPS/YOUTH JUSTICE CASE UPDATES

Tracy Schumacher states that there are:

- 35 Children in out of home care
- 13 Children on In-home CHIPS
- 2 Informal
- 1 OHC Juvenile in rehab placement
- 2 Families on Protective Plans

No action.

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- To be determined

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Karl to adjourn, second by Weber. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.