

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: SOCIAL SERVICES
DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
TIME: 4:30 PM
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARDROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Skallerud called the meeting to order at 4:34 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Augustin, Goode, Karl, Skallerud, Weber

Absent: Gretzinger

Others Present: Tracy Ferraro, Melissa Grogg

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Goode, second by Weber to waive reading the agenda and approve it. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

APPROVE SOCIAL SERVICES MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9 & AUGUST 8, 2024 MEETINGS

Motion by Augustin, second by Weber to approve the minutes from July 9 & August 8 meetings. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CLOSED SESSION

1. The committee may consider a motion to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(c) “considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction responsibility, ” this closed session relates to:
 - Interviews
 - Possible carryover of vacation time for M. Ison

Motion by Karl to convene to closed session, Second by Goode. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Convened to closes session at 4:36 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE, ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Karl and second by Weber to reconvene to open session. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Reconvened to open session at 5:09 p.m.

Motion by Goode, second by Karl to offer LTE IM position to L. Albright contingent upon background check and drug screen. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

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ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF A. SCHMELLING

Motion by Karl, Second by Weber to accept the resignation of A. Schmelling effective September 11, 2024. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON HUMAN SERVICE CENTER UPDATES AND POSSIBLE MOU'S WITH OUSTIDE AGENCIES

The implementation plan for the new Human Service Center has been sent in and approved. The social services director is qualified to be a mental health crisis professional and is halfway through the training. Some officers have also expressed interest in becoming LTE crisis professionals as well. The committee had a discussion about it being more cost effective to do crisis work within the county instead of through Oneida County. The committee agreed to proceed with a 6-month MOU with Oneida County to allow more time to prepare and make decisions. Motion by Goode to enter MOU with Oneida County, Second by Augustin. All Present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

The committee discussed North Central for help with mental health cases. They are easy to work with and help with billing and costs. Motion by Weber to enter MOU with North Central, second by Karl. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

The committee discussed working with Alicia's Place for respite care and emergency APS cases. This would fill a great need. Motion by Goode to enter MOU with Alicia's Place, second by Karl. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OUR TRIBAL PARTNERS, INCLUDING CHIPS WELLNESS COURT (FCP) AND THE SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE (MOLE LAKE)

FCP would like to work with Forest County to get CHIPS Wellness Court started. This would require trips to visit other wellness courts throughout the country, including Minnesota, Arizona, and Florida. It was agreed that it would be difficult for the director to be gone that much with her demanding schedule, and that it would make more sense for one of the workers who handles these cases to go. Motion by Weber to participate and send one of the workers on these trips, second by Augustin. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

Mole Lake Senior Community Service program would like to work with us and send some of their senior volunteers to help in the department. Motion by Karl to approve the volunteers, on condition of background checks being done, second by Goode. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

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DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON METASTAR

The director explained that MetaStar is a DHS grant that helps counties with Human Services technology to ensure it is compliant in meeting standards and pass audits. They will be presenting at the next meeting. The committee agreed that this sounds like a good and necessary program. Motion by Weber to go ahead and start the process, having corp. counsel review the MOU and get it signed, second by Augustin. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FUTURE OF THE CST PROGRAM

The CST program is a voluntary program that families are not utilizing and is taking up funds and workers' time that would be better utilized in other areas. Motion by Weber to discontinue the program and reallocate funds to APS, second by Karl. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

GRANT UPDATE

The department received the CIP grant in the amount of \$7,000 for the truancy program. The Community Intervention Grant of \$100,000 was also received. This will fund an intensive supervision program for delinquency.

UPDATES ON THE SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE, BOY SCOUT PROJECT, AND UPCOMING HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES TO BENEFIT THE CLOSET

The school supply drive was a big success, bringing in more donations than expected. Handing out backpacks and supplies is ongoing. The boy scouts would like to build a box for food donations. The committee was concerned about safety. The department will discuss more specifics with the boy scouts to try and come up with a plan that will work. The department will be holding a Halloween party, similar to last year's; which was a big success. Location is still pending.

TRAINING UPDATES, CROSS TRAINING OF CASEWORKERS, AND STAFF TRAINING REQUEST

Workers are needing to be cross trained in other areas to help support each other, especially as the department transitions. There is still some money in the budget for training. Motion by Weber to allow workers to start cross training, second by Augustin. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

There is an upcoming APS training that the APS worker would like to attend. The committee agreed that multiple workers should attend, if possible, to be part of the previously approved cross training. Motion by Augustin to approve the APS training, second by Goode. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

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Workers are still having problems with ESACWIS and would like to come in a few Saturdays to have training with the director. The committee agreed that there are not funds to cover all the comp time that would be accrued, and that the director has too much on her plate already to be working those extra hours. It was suggested that workers pair up on different days to work together on the training, using the resources that are already available.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EMPLOYEE INTERNSHIP

An employee is working with the director to complete her internship via her current position in the department. The college has expressed interest in sending future students to complete internships as well. Other counties have found many of their employees this way. Motion by Weber to approve internships, second by Karl. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON POSTING THE FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST AND SOCIAL SERVICE AID POSITIONS

Motion by Goode and second by Augustin to post the Social Service Aid position as normal, and to post the Family Support Specialist position internally and go ahead with the promotion of the employee who is already interested. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

UPDATE ON BINDER SYSTEM FOR THE DIRECTOR TO STAY WELL INFORMED ON THE CASES OPEN WITHIN FOREST COUNTY

The supervisor is meeting with workers to keep each of their binders up to date with each of their cases. This makes it easy for the director to open a binder and see what each worker is currently working on and stay up to date on all the cases.

WICWA AUDIT AND POSSIBLE OVER TIME HOURS

There will be an audit on October 9th. The staff may need to work extra hours to make sure all files are updated and ready for the audit. The committee would prefer the department get as much done as possible during normal hours, working extra only if needed. Motion by Augustin to approve over time only if needed, second by Weber. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATING A MISSION STATEMENT

The state wants all counties to come up with a mission statement. The department will continue to brainstorm ideas for this.

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OPEN CASES UPDATE

Updates will be done at October meeting

BUDGET STATUS

Out of home care is over budget for the year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Augustin to adjourn the meeting. Second by Weber. All present voting (AYE).
Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 6:43 p.m.