

## SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

### CALL TO ORDER

Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 4:34

### ROLL CALL

Present: Augustin, Gretzinger, Karl, Weber

Absent: Goode, Skallerud

Others Present: Tracy Ferraro, Melissa Grogg, Kayla Van Cleve

### APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Weber, second by Augustin to approve agenda. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### APPROVE SOCIAL SERVICES MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING

Motion by Karl, second by Augustin to approve the minutes from November 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### PRESENTATION BY KAYLA VAN CLEVE ABOUT ALICIA'S PLACE AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Alicia's Place is able to provide respite care during the day and emergency care at night for elderly and disabled individuals. Having them as a preferred provider would help free up officers' and social workers' time by avoiding ER visits. An MOU has been received and is currently being reviewed by Corp Council. Pending approval, the director would be able to sign the MOU by December 1, 2024. Motion by Augustin, Second by Weber to approve Alicia's place for contracted services upon Corp. Council's approval of the MOU. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### TRANSITIONAL UPDATES

The director attended a committee meeting on 11/13. They are hoping to dissolve the board for the transitional committee within the next month.

### HSC UPDATES

None

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### CRISIS UPDATES

The state visit went well. Certification for the department will go through and the department will be certified as of November 15, 2024. The director needs 2500 clinical hours to be a licensed clinical social worker. 1500 can be administrative hours. The other 1000 can be achieved through the walk-in's and Stop Gap counseling, if approved. Catholic Charities has agreed to be another service provider for Forest County. The director learned that many Forest County clients have been on a waitlist at Human Service Center. It is unknown how long and if they will be taken off the waitlist, or their information given to the department in January after the transition. To avoid clients in need of mental health assistance falling through the cracks, and to get them the help that they need sooner, it was suggested to find out if the department can advertise in newspapers and social media that we have alternative sources of mental health help available to us now. Motion by Weber, Second by Karl to ask Corp. Council if we can advertise alternatives. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON STOP GAP COUNSELING

Stop Gap Counseling is a way to help people from falling through the cracks between the time that they come in for crisis and the time that they are able to get in to see a provider, as this can sometimes take a few weeks or more. As previously stated, the director would also be able to log some of her clinical hours by providing this service. Motion by Weber, Second by Karl to approve Stop Gap Counseling. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE LIABILITY INSURANCE NEEDS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

There is a possibility that the county could get a rider for liability. If not, the cost would be \$200-\$300 per year for professional liability. Motion by Gretzinger, Second by Augustin to pursue more information on liability insurance. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### BUDGET REVIEW

The department is over budget on Out of Home Care but all other areas are on track.

### UPDATE ON POSSIBLE RATE HIKE IN 2025 FOR SECURE DETENTION

The director attended a meeting and learned that there may be a possible rate hike of \$1000-\$1500 per day for secure detention. All counties at the meeting said that would be impossible to maintain for any counties in the state. WSCHA is attempting to address this at the policy level. This would not be sustainable for Forest County.

### DISCUSSION ON STAFF VACATION TIME OVERAGES AND NEEDED STAFFING AND POSSIBLE ACTION

DSS staff sometimes has a hard time using up vacation time due to caseloads and emergency situations. This will only become more of a problem next year when the department starts to take on crisis. The staff is wondering if it could be taken to Personnel and Finance to discuss the possibility of cashing out vacation time instead of losing it. Motion by Augustin, Second by Karl to pass to Personnel and Finance to develop a policy for cashing out vacation time. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

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### OHC DATA UPDATE

The department is down to 46 children in out of home care, with more being sent home by end of year. There are 6 on protective plans and 1 in the SSF program.

### DISCUSSION ON RECORD KEEPING FOR 2025 AND POSSIBLE ACTION

It was previously discussed that medical software may need to be purchased. The director learned from the state that paper files are ok to use, and there may also be some free software available to the county already that could be used where paper filing isn't enough. IT will meet with director to discuss options available. Motion by Weber, Second by Karl to keep as many files as possible as paper files for this year and then re-evaluate. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### GRANT UPDATES AND POSSIBLE ACTION

The director has applied for 2 grants that she is still waiting to hear back on. The ADRC made a request to apply for a homeless grant, however it is a 50 percent match, which the county is unable to cover. They also requested to apply for a \$1-\$2 million grant to help aging people with home modifications. The director will be applying for this with the help of ADRC.

### DISCUSSION ON SUPPLIES FOR5 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS PROGRAM FOR 2025 AND POSSIBLE ACTION

The department will need a DSM manual, assessment books for Stop Gap counseling, and worker training to be ready for the crisis program. Motion by Gretzinger, Second by Augustin to approve purchase of necessary supplies. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS LEGALLY BROUGHT FORTH

None

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Karl to adjourn the meeting. Second by Weber. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 5:54 p.m.