

MINUTES

The Vernon County Department of Human Services Committee met on Monday, June 16, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Sherman Erlandson. Proper public notice was given. Motion made by Hicks to approve the minutes as sent. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

There were no visitors present.

Review/Approve 2014 Purchase of Service Contract Amendments

Eitland stated there were 2 contract amendments that needed approval for Center Point Counseling and Family Works and both were well within budget. Motion made by Brault to approve these two contract amendments in the amount of \$34,494. Second by Hicks. Motion carried.

Presentation of Vouchers/Internal Transfers

Vouchers were presented. Eitland stated the first quarter payment for Family Care is included this month for over \$80,000. Motion made by Hicks to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$334,966.42. Second by Bringe. Motion carried.

There were no internal transfers.

Discuss options/planning for the WI Home Energy Assistance Program

Eitland stated we currently contract with Couleecap for the WI Home Energy Assistance Program. Eitland stated this program is federally and state funded and runs from October 1 through September 30. Eitland stated that last August Couleecap stated they were losing approximately \$8,000 every year providing energy services to Vernon County residents. Couleecap also stopped doing the WHEAP Program in Monroe County in 2013. Eitland stated we used to operate this program internally and wanted the committee members to think about continuing to contract with Couleecap or operating the program internally. Eitland stated this is a fully funded program and would not have any fiscal levy impact to Vernon County. Motion

made by Bringe to have Eitland research operating the program internally. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

Discuss/Possible Action on Comprehensive Community Services

Eitland stated that Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) is designed to serve people with mental health and AODA issues and includes serving children. Eitland stated that discussions are still occurring about the program and whether we should move forward. Crawford County wants Vernon to be the lead agency if we proceed. If we move forward, the CCS Region would contract with Center Point Counseling Services for a case coordination to create supports with rehabilitation to enhance daily living skills. This is different from the Community Support Program (CSP). Eitland stated the funding for CCS was made part of the statute and the state will cover the non-federal portion of costs. This 40% is what counties would usually pay for. Eitland stated Sheri Hammond from Center Point Counseling Services will be at the July meeting and we will have a presentation of CCS at that meeting.

Financial – Marsha Everson

Everson went over the Budget vs. Expenditure report and stated we should be at 42%. Most items are within expected expenditures.

Family & Children's Unit – Jim Lee

Lee handed out the statistics for May.

Lee stated there are 8 children in out of home care.

Lee stated there are 10 individuals receiving Kinship Care.

Lee stated there are 9 families in the CST program.

Lee stated there is one child in in-home safety.

Lee stated his unit was at full staff but Angela Mink who was recently hired has taken another job so there is a vacancy in the Family & Children's Unit again.

Long-Term Support/ADRC WW – Jean Klousia

Klousia stated the May 22nd United Health Care outreach at the Bethel Buttik in Westby was successful. Klousia stated they had planned for 200 people and they ran out of food because of the positive response by the community to this service. The ADRC had a booth there and reached out to people as they arrived.

Klousia stated the Town Hall meetings regarding underage drinking were not well attended – nobody attended in Viroqua and 6-8 people attended in La Farge.

Klousia stated that following concerns about the Western Wisconsin Care staff not following proper procedure and statute, Jean Klousia and Greg Lunde offered a training in the La Crosse office and approximately 120 care managers attended. Klousia stated Attorney Stephanie Hopkins was also present to answer questions as a guardian ad litem. Klousia stated this training was very well received.

Klousia stated we had our Medicaid audit on the Community Support Program. Klousia stated there were some questions on several claims and if any dollars have to be paid back the Family & Children's Center will be responsible for these fees.

Klousia stated the COP Review was submitted March 15, 2014.

Income Maintenance – Chris Stanke

Stanke was not present at the meeting. Eitland stated that the WREA has processed 3,402 cases during the first quarter and there are 72,000 cases statewide. Eitland stated our 8 county consortium has a caseload of 32,870 and there are 44 permanent staff to work with these cases. Eitland stated despite these high numbers WREA is meeting the standards set by the state. Eitland stated we have recovered \$510,000 of tax dollars that have gone to people in overpayments and \$8,000,000 state wide. Eitland stated the Affordable Care Act funding covers the LTE ESS positions. The Directors are working with the State to try to come up with more money to keep the LTE employees beyond June 30, 2015 due to increased caseload size.

Clerical/ES/Administration – Kelly Schwarz

Schwarz stated there were 2 FTE vacant ES positions – 1 permanent and 1 limited term. Brenda Wright who was one of the LTE employees applied for the permanent ES position and was

hired. This left 2 vacant LTE ES positions. Schwarz stated it has been a little more difficult to fill the LTE positions because there is just one year of employment for those positions.

Schwarz stated the call volume has been a little lower and stated the child care pilot program has been going well.

Director's Report – Pamela Eitland

Eitland stated the mental health mini-grant she submitted for \$2,000 for suicide prevention and rural mental health service improvement was not approved. Eitland stated there were 19 applications and 5 grants were issued.

Eitland stated that the dental care grant that was submitted for \$75,000 through the Bremer Foundation was not approved. Eitland stated the Foundation loved our idea and proposal but we were not awarded the grant because they only award grants to communities where there is a Bremer Bank. Eitland stated the closest Bremer Bank is in La Crosse.

Eitland stated she had an update on the WCHSA redefining the structure of the Board and the vote that was taken on this. Eitland stated she did not support the hiring of an executive director position, but this position was passed by vote of WCHSA. Eitland stated our annual dues will now be \$1,000 per year which was based on our county population. Eitland stated it will be up to the committee if we want to continue being a member of WCHSA.

Eitland stated that Dennis and Mary Ann Siler who are licensed foster care providers were nominated by one of our staff and they were awarded Foster Care Parents of the Year in the Southern Region. Eitland stated the Siler's received a plaque from the Governor's wife at a ceremony in Madison.

Eitland asked the Board if they were interested in sponsoring a departmental appreciation event again this year. The Board told Eitland to arrange this and keep them informed as to a date.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee was scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by McCoy to adjourn. Second by Hicks. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Kim Tainter
Administrative Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sherman Erlandson
Dennis Brault
Frank McCoy
Ralph Hicks
Brian Richardson
Mary Bringe

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dianne Radcliffe
Jay Vosseteig
Maynard Cox

OTHERS PRESENT

Pamela Eitland
Kim Tainter
Marsha Everson
Kelly Schwarz
Jean Klousia
Jim Lee