

WRIGHT COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
July 25, 2016

1:30 P.M. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The regular meeting of the Wright County Health & Human Services Board was called to order at 1:31 P.M., Monday, July 25, 2016, by Chairperson Daleiden.

MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2016. (attachment)

Action: The Minutes were moved for approval by Borrell, seconded by Husom and carried.

AGENDA:

Action: The Agenda was moved for approval by Potter, seconded by Husom and carried.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Christine Husom - District 1

Pat Sawatzke - District 2

Mark Daleiden - District 3

Michael Potter - District 4

Charlie Borrell - District 5

Staff Present:

Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director

Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager

Christine Partlow, Business Manager

Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager

Jessica Nelson, Social Services Supervisor

Jill Marzean, Social Services Supervisor

Social Workers: Keri Frechette, Nathan Sindt, Nichole Adefuye, Emily Anderson

Robin Dorf, Case Aide

Susan Gillman, Office Manager II

Kirsten Schieber, Office Technician II

New Hires: Jennifer Mrnak – Jen is currently a long-term care worker in our health care unit. She has been with Wright County for over two years and is now going to be the Supervisor of Adult Financial Services, Family Financial Services and Long Term Care. Her Supervisor position will begin August 1, 2016.

Others Present: Kari Willis, County Attorney's Office

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Social Services Payments Abstract – \$279,486.77
2. Request to approve petition to amend 7/26/16 County Board Agenda.
Goodrum requested the Board either approve the Public Health Case Aid vacancy for rehire or amend it into tomorrow's agenda. The Board confirmed it is on the Agenda for 7/26/16.
3. Developmental Disabilities Unit Retreat – August 11, 2016, Ney Park (attachment)
4. Letter of Support for WCCA's Early Head Start Application
Action: Moved for approval by Borrell, seconded by Husom and motion carried unanimously.
5. Contracts/Grants:
 - a. CLEARCorps/USA check for Healthy Home Grant – funds training for 6 HHS staff for a two-day Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners course - \$ 1,000 (attachment)
 - b. MCC Cooperative Agreement (MTM) (attachment)Action: The Agenda was moved for approval by Borrell, seconded by Husom and motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENTS: \$ 49,875.22

Action: Moved for approval by Potter, seconded by Husom and motion carried unanimously.

SOCIAL SERVICES/PUBLIC HEALTH/FINANCIAL SERVICES:

1. August Employee of the Month – Keri Frechette
Keri Frechette in the Licensing & Resource Unit is our August Employee of the Month. Keri provides Rule 25 Chemical Dependency (CD) services. She completes CD evaluations, coordinates entry into treatment facilities and manages CCDTF funding for qualifying individuals. Keri is a double nominee, with the distinction of being nominated both by a coworker and by an external partner. Both individuals that nominated Keri agree, she delivers a wealth of information to people who desperately need it in order to improve their lives and live addiction-free. Keri is a professional who puts her clients first. Keri's clients can be some of our most demanding individuals, yet, Keri approaches them with high regard. Our partners who work with Keri and her clients recognize that she works with all the people and resources available to help her clients. A CD professional working with the U of M has this to say about Keri; "...it is so relieving to know that Wright County has by far one of the best chemical health social workers out there to help these clients achieve their goals of sobriety/recovery." This is an amazing tribute to a great professional here in Wright County. Goodrum shared a story of her own – a gentleman approached her at Dunn Bros and asked if she worked at WCHHS. Jami replied yes, he goes on to say, "You have a lady over there that has saved my daughter's life (referring to Keri.)"
2. Presentation: Truancy and Educational Neglect (Jessica Nelson, Supervises)
Truancy and Educational Neglect run together very similarly to the later stages of each program. The focus of these programs is education and why it is important to go to school on a regular basis. The law is that once a child turns seven years of age they are required to be in school every day until they turn seventeen. Any unexcused absence is up to the school district and school district policy to decide but ultimately an unexcused absence would be, staying home to watch a sibling, bad weather, too tired, doesn't want to go to school because too busy, fishing trip, hunting trip, work, missing the bus and extended vacations. Some excused absences would be, family emergencies, religious holidays, illness, funerals and doctor's appointments when documentation is provided. In Wright County, we have ten school districts that we serve, some larger than others. We also work with online schools and schools outside of our county as long as the child enrolled is a resident of Wright County.

Robin Dorf - TRUANCY

We have a diversion process in Wright County that is designed to help children with poor attendance before they reach the judicial system. The first step is a truancy mediation meeting (three day truancy referral). Both the student and parent are invited to the mediation meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to gain knowledge of the truancy laws and the effects that truancy will have on their future. This past year we had one of our highest numbers of clients served resulting in a 30% increase from last year. The second step is the SARB Meeting (five day Truancy Referral - Community School based program). Principals, assistant principals, probation officers, social workers & outside agencies like Central Minnesota Mental Health Center are all invited to attend. In the SARB meeting, they seek to understand why students are having attendance problems and to resolve those issues. A contract is made at that point and the student's attendance is monitored by Robin Dorf. In this last year, we saw a 30% increase in the number of SARB meetings as well. Potter asked if some schools are worse than other's or if they are all having the same problems. Robin Dorf replies that it is all of the schools together making the numbers sky rocket. The final step of the diversion process is filing a truancy CHIPS petition if the child remains truant. Overall, this year was our highest year of petitions filed. We filed 68 petitions: 331 students referred to the first step, 151 of those moved to the second step and 68 of those went to the third step.

Nicole Adefuye/Emily Anderson – EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT

The purpose of educational neglect is to catch the problems early in elementary school before it progresses

into truancy. The first step for this process is a three day truancy warning letter. This letter is sent to the parents of the students that are 12 years of age and under. The second step is the SARB meeting with the parents in attendance. If the parents do not show up to this meeting they will continue the meeting with the school regardless. The third step comes when the student gets to seven unexcused absences if the case is screened into child protection and can be opened for family assessment case management. We have seen an increase in writing CHIPS petitions within educational neglect.

Nathan Sindt - What is Next?

After meeting with the student and/or parent Nathan Sindt and Amanda Gerads come up with recommendations that are put into court reports that later become court orders. From there, they continue on with case management. They meet with their clients at least once a month and have constant contact with the school district. They track the student's attendance as well as grades and look at the services that they can provide to them. The purpose of this is to find out what the barriers are that are causing the student to be unable to make it to school each day. In some situations, they may recommend that the student have a diagnostic or CD assessment as well as random urine analyses. Electronic home monitoring and confiscation of electronics are other options along with "Back on Track." Back on track is a weekend foster program. The students who are excessively missing school can then be court ordered to this program. Potter asked if it gets to this point due to the parents not paying attention to their kids enough or if they are just appeasing them. Sindt replied that it is both, it runs the gambit. Sawatzke asked if it is worse with a single parent homes and Nathan replied it is both single parent as well as families where the parents are together. Daleiden asked where Wright Choice came in. Jessica Nelson stated that we do not utilize Wright Choice with our truancy clients as the school is the only one who court can order them to that program. Sawatzke asked, if a 16 year old doesn't go to school who is in violation of the law, the child or the parent. Kari Willis states that if the student is under the age of 12 the law presumes the parent/parents are at fault. Once the student reaches 12 years of age the law presumes the student is at fault. Daleiden asked what happens if we find out it is indeed the parent's fault and not the child's like originally presumed. Jessica states we then refer the case back for a child protection assessment. Sawatzke asked if children are using the online school option to beat the system. Jessica replied that some students really excel with online school and some don't. Courts can now order that the student no longer attend online school and go back to public schools if the requirements are not being met. Two years ago the state started monitoring the online schools and they are keeping in contact with us. Dorf stated that they need to set better guidelines in their policies. Adefuye stated that recently, they require a mentor that is supposed to be checking in weekly with the student and that they are marking them absent when not meeting the requirements set.

Jessica Nelson - Dirt Bike Program

Last year we presented to the board about the dirt bike program. The program is now up and running this summer in Brooklyn Park on Friday mornings (21 lessons in 3 weeks.) The students are doing great, Nathan goes out there every week. They are going to be working on completing a community service project which includes packing back packs for the children of Wright County. They will also be trail riding at ERX in Elk River as well as the Rodeo in Brooklyn Park to show their families everything they have learned. The students have been attending consistently and are very excited about this program. They have been meeting their goals each week. A success story was shared. His case successfully closed this spring. He has continued to communicate with the Agency and has been excited to share all his goals and successes.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. June 2016 Financial Statements (attachment) (Christine Partlow)
Action: Moved for approval by Borrell, seconded by Sawatzke and motion carried unanimously.
2. Director's Comments.
Reminder that Jami will not be attending the next Board meeting. Kirsten Schieber was recognized for stepping in and taking meeting minutes in Aggie's absence. Aggie will be returning tomorrow 7/26/16.

The next regular meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M., Monday, August 8, 2016, in the Commissioners Room, at the Wright County Government Center. Chairperson Daleiden adjourned the meeting at 2:35 P.M.