

WRIGHT COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
September 12, 2016

1:30 P.M. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The regular meeting of the Wright County Health & Human Services Board was called to order at 1:30 P.M., Monday, September 12, 2016, by Chairperson Daleiden.

MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2016.

Action: The Minutes were moved for approval by Borrell, seconded by Husom. Motion carries unanimously.

AGENDA:

Action: The Agenda was moved for approval by Husom, seconded by Potter. Motion carries unanimously.

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
Carol Schefers, Public Health Director
Hannah Woods, Health Promotion Coordinator
Michele Raymond, Collections Officer
Jessica Nelson, Social Services Supervisor
Social Workers - Nathan Sindt, Amanda Gerads
Christine Partlow, Business Manager
Kim Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Brandy Vollbrecht, Case Aide
Aggie Gunnerson, Secretary

New Hires:

Joy Decker, Office Technician I in FTS Office Support & Collections, date of hire 9/06/16
Lisa Spencer, Office Manager II promotion, effective August 29, 2016

Others Present:

Karen Wolff, County Attorney's Office
Lisa Robinson, Twin Cities YMCA

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Social Services Payments Abstract – \$107,663.48

Action: Motion by Potter, seconded by Sawatzke, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENTS:

Action: Motion by Borrell, seconded by Husom, to approve the Administrative Payments in the amount of \$189,312.46; 105 vendors; 290 transactions, subject to audit. Motion carries unanimously.

SOCIAL SERVICES/PUBLIC HEALTH/FINANCIAL SERVICES:

1. Governor's Proclamation - September 2016 Recovery Month. (attachment)
Michelle Miller read Governor Dayton's Proclamation proclaiming September as Recovery Month.

2. Contracting with outside Attorney for Probate work.
Goodrum Schwartz said she met last week with Karen Wolff and the Agency's Collections Officers to discuss estates, probate; recovery of MA costs, liens against the estate. We don't have resources to initiate probate and these cases are waiting sometime years. In some cases, many thousand dollars are owed the County. We talked about contracting with either one or more attorneys to work on probate. We may want to set a threshold amount before we enter into an agreement with an attorney to pursue probate. Three attorneys have responded to Wolff's request asking about their interest in this - replies came back in the \$200-\$300/hour range. We would like to proceed with this process with one attorney at first, do one probate with them and see how successful they are. Borrell asked how this differs from someone in a nursing home and they owe the State money. Schwartz said we can attach a lien to the estate and collect from an MA estate when probate is not an issue. Raymond said we have many cases where there isn't property available when a person is in a nursing home; they may have cash assets, car, stocks, bonds, annuities, etc. What Jami is proposing is dealing with people who still have an interest in a piece of property where they have recoverable dollars in an estate. The bulk of money (75%) would go back to the State, but we have a 25% recovery. Borrell said we do that already. Wolff said we don't do probate. Goodrum Schwartz said we are talking about situations where there may be heirs, nobody would initiate. Raymond said if there is property involved, it has to go to probate. These are situations where there is no family member or someone willing to do the probate work.

Raymond gave an example - A lady is on MA and property is in her name (tenant in common with her ex-spouse, owns 50% of property). The property value is \$128,000 and we have a claim amount of \$50,000. The property is sitting there. The person needs to pay back MA. Goodrum Schwartz said person is age 55 or over. Is in long-term care, or received GA or GAMC, or Alternative Care. All dollars prior to January 1, 2014, for MA for that population are recoverable in their estate. After January 1, 2014, new legislation which requires we review the situation. Borrell said it is almost criminal these people are not notified they are incurring expense; why are we going after them because of MA and not after somebody else. Raymond said that is the law. Goodrum Schwartz said people are told of this. This is for people 55 and older. If the Board wants to pursue collecting this debt, we would have to hire a probate attorney to act on our behalf. Sawatzke said in the past we have never done this, and we wouldn't get that money. Raymond said it would come to us in the future, and could be brought to fruition sooner than what is happening. Wolff said the property sits in their name for years if there is no family to take it over. Raymond said there may be living relatives, but they haven't started probate. Goodrum Schwartz said there may be relatives that would benefit from doing probate. There is potential income for us and to get it off the books. Sawatzke asked if the attorney fees are they paid from the estate. Goodrum Schwartz said yes, they would get their expenses out of the proceeds from the estate. Husom said it makes sense. The longer it sits out, the property deteriorates. This is resolving an issue faster. She agreed with Borrell and feels bad that people have to pay money back, but they have the means to pay it back. There are people that don't have and need the insurance. Some months ago when this came up, they probably hadn't the read fine print. Sawatzke said why don't people take money they have earned and saved during their life and buy insurance. Borrell said why doesn't that 19 year old have to pay back MA, too. When a person works their whole life, had insurance through work, now they retire and fall on bad times, income is down to nothing and they go on MA; would they have to pay that back, they are 65. He said is everybody paying back Medicaid when they die. Goodrum Schwartz said if they have a home they own, the spouse stays in the home until their death. Borrell said when a family took MA somewhere in their life, then quit working and then die, are they always going to pay that back. Raymond said the person has to pay back GAMC at any point in their life - is recoverable. Goodrum Schwartz said GAMC is for adults with no minor children, don't have a disability, or are homeless or very low income, and is a very small portion of the cases. Borrell said some people have to pay it back, others don't. Some people take MA and never have to pay it back, and there are some people that have to pay it back.

Daleiden said, since we have too many unanswered questions, to put this in writing to make it more understandable, what the cases and requirements are, and bring back to our next meeting. Goodrum Schwartz said she was going to suggest we bring back a case example. Daleiden said we need to have clarity to be able to do the cases. Goodrum Schwartz said we have clarity on what is owed us and why. Sawatzke asked if there are three or four cases out these you want to go after. Raymond said we have approximately seven cases identified that could potentially be used in this scenario. Currently, the scenario presented today is there because no one has started probate. We have potentially over \$13,000 that would come to the County, and \$53,000 that would go back to the State of Minnesota. This is a home with five acres; and taxes have not been paid since the day of death. The State of Minnesota is out their money on MA paid out. Goodrum Schwartz said we can't make our claim without probate. There was discussion on who would get the property. Sawatzke said do we keep redoing claim, and in 25 years get it, or eventually does it fall off. Raymond said at some point it is going to die and we would lose it.

Goodrum Schwartz gave names of the three attorneys and their rates. Rhonda J. Magnussen, Elk River - \$200.00/hour, plus costs (filing fees, publication costs, court fees, and recording fees). MacMillan, Wallace & Athanases, Annandale - \$250.00-\$300.00/hour, rate discounted for government clients. Young & Brown, Annandale - \$250.00/hours, plus \$95.00/hour for legal assistant time. They would be motivated to get this thing taken care of and the dollars would come into the County. Daleiden said to get some answers for the next time. Borrell said why should we do this if it is real property and we are going to get the property. Sawatzke said if the property is worth \$100,000, and family knows they owe the County \$80,000. They could rent the property, pay the property taxes, and not pay the \$80,000 owed to the County. This could go on for a long time. We should not assume that someone is not going to pay the back property taxes and we get it right away. Borrell said when property tax is not paid, why should we hire an attorney. In a tax forfeiture, the County will get the money. Sawatzke said we are "holding" the property for the State, it is the State's property, and, maybe, the State gets the extra money. Goodrum Schwartz said the Statute will guide us on how we do that work.

Action: Motion by Potter, seconded by Sawatzke, to table this to next meeting to get more answers.
Motion carries unanimously.

3. Presentation: Emergency Preparedness Update.

Hannah Woods presented an annual summary. This year is a new grant year. We have received funds since 2002. Funds have been used to meet the fifteen capabilities determined by the Federal government. We receive approximately \$110,000 per year to run our program (amount is based on population, proximity to the metro, assessment of risk factors in the county). During the last twelve months, we have held a full scale exercise at the St. Michael/Albertville School on mass dispensing, dispensed 120 flu vaccine to children, carried out our Minnesota Responds Calldown drill, combined our Emergency Preparedness workgroup with Steve Berg's Emergency Management Advisory Council workgroup, and had our Operation Readiness review. We are considered Cities Readiness Initiative because of our proximity to the metro and our large population, and receive grant funding for that. It is a Federal Revenue conducted by the CDC through MDH - all of our Plans in the last five years were reviewed.

The new budget process started July 1, 2016. There is a heavy focus on access and functional needs of individuals and people with chronic medical conditions. Both the Federal and State want these people "mapped" out on GIS or Excel spreadsheet in case of an event so we would be able to locate them and find out their needs and get them out; we will be working with the Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Units on this. We are working on getting a better response rate from our clinics on health alerts/advisories. We now have a required response rate of 100% from hospitals and 80% from clinics. We had a health alert for the first Zika Virus in Wright County. There have been almost 100 cases in the State (all travel associated); one in Wright County. Pulsepoint - we have been working with EMS fire fighters and University of Minnesota, the Resuscitation Consortium. Daleiden asked if after our next meeting we get AED training. Schefers said we are one of the four pilot groups in the State for this. Woods said this started September 1, 2016. We are the only Public Health Agency doing this. Woods said she is the COOP Committee Chair - and is working on developing table-top exercise for group. We

are continuing NIMS for employees (National Incident Management Structure) - the Federal response strategy for all first responder agencies. The second training is November 1st. Minnesota Response data base, because we had a low response rate (under 50%), we are sending emails, phone calls, and letters to see if people want to continue to be volunteer responders. We have 266 responders in the Wright County data base. In the spring, we will be working on doing a sheltering training for Public Health staff. September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. Borrell asked how a person gets on the responder list. Woods said there is a link on the Public Health website.

4. Quarter 2 Customer Service Survey Responses. (attachment)
Goodrum Schwartz said 100 responses were received the second quarter. Responses identifying a worker are given to their Supervisor, then they will review with the employee. Borrell made a suggestion in second question - could you strike out "helpful" and use "courteous." Partlow said asking a question about who is helpful is important, and in her Unit she does not want them to be courteous but help them resolve the problem, to find the right resources. Borrell said the rest of questions answer that. Partlow said that information can be picked from the comments; Managers have that information, we have seen service that has been both helpful and courteous. Goodrum Schwartz said we can work on it; maybe there's another question about getting a resolution to their issue. Overall, she was happy with results. Daleiden said he is concerned on how quickly staff responded to request (the two bottom items). Goodrum Schwartz asked Board if this is helpful and should we continue to do survey. Sawatzke said for the question "How courteous are you" and for anybody that said "Not at all courteous", if the computer could implement to them the question "Were you ultimately able to receive the services you were hoping to receive." If they all say no, maybe the people weren't courteous because they were not happy with what they got. Maybe they interpret it as being not courteous when they did not get what they wanted. Borrell said there are times worker has to say "no." and say it nice and give them ideas. He said can we do something historically. Goodrum Schwartz said this is for our second quarter this year (4th time we have done survey). Daleiden suggested putting time period on bottom of report.
5. Award from National Youth Project Using Minibikes (NYPUM).
Lisa Robinson is from the YMCA of greater Twin Cities. They help youth referred to them by schools or agencies to get over their barriers. NYPUM is one of their programs - a mentoring program where youth set up goals and checked in on their goals, and also learning to safely ride a minibike. It is a partnership with Honda and YMCA. There are about 150 programs in the US. We are the only one in Minnesota, and are celebrating our 40th anniversary. Wright County was one of our new partners this year and we are presenting Wright County the NYPUM Partner of the Year award. Children work on goals during the school time; there will be more riding this fall. Nelson said Nathan Sindt and Amanda Gerads drove children to bike trails, and made sure they were in attendance. Board thank them for doing this.
6. Social Services Intake & Assessment Unit Retreat - October 7, 2016; at Ney Park. (attachment)
Action: Motion by Husom, seconded by Potter, to approve Retreat. Motion carries unanimously. Daleiden mentioned 1:00 PM speaker on Random Moments training. Goodrum Schwartz said training is to get people on same page on how to code time.
7. Supervisors Retreat - September 27, 2016; at Wild Marsh, Buffalo.
Goodrum Schwartz said we are working with Dr. Sicora on our Strategic Plan. There is a pre-meeting with Dr. Sicora and the Supervisors after our next Board meeting. The next day, three hours in the morning working on balanced leadership, and 3 hours in the afternoon working on the Strategic Plan.
Action: Motion by Sawatzke, seconded by Husom, to approve retreat. Motion carries unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Mental Health Advisory Council appointment (attachment)
Mona Trebesch - District 4
Goodrum Schwartz said Trebesch was a Case Aide in our Mental Health Unit, she saw the value that the Council did, and upon retirement would like to be part of that Council.

Action: Motion by Potter, seconded by Husom, to approve appointment. Motion carries unanimously. Daleiden said Trebesch is a very passionate about it.

2. Director's Comments.

Goodrum Schwartz recognized Brandi Vollbrecht, Case Aide in the Developmental Disabilities Unit. Brandi has recently completed our Project Pencil project, donations come from providers, staff and public, and 313 backpacks were distributed to needy children. She also received a MSSA Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Vollbrecht said she has one year of schooling left before she gets her Social Worker degree, through an online program at the University of North Dakota.

Surface workbook - Potter mentioned in the Administrative Payments there are a lot purchase of surface workbooks. Schwartz said the Agency is moving from laptop computers to surface workbooks. Partlow said this is our normal replacement schedule - everyone is on a four year replacement.

The next regular meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M., Monday, September 26, 2016, in the Commissioners Room, at the Wright County Government Center. Chairperson Daleiden adjourned the meeting at 2:58 P.M.