

WRIGHT COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
September 26, 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 26, 2016, by Chairperson Daleiden.

MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2016.

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

AGENDA:

Action: The Agenda was moved for approval by Husom, seconded by Borrell and carried 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
Marianne Charbonneau, Social Services Supervisor
Julie Szarke-Peura, Social Worker
Jill Marzean, Social Services Supervisor
Richelle Kramer, Social Services Supervisor
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Supervisor
Kelley Bjork, Financial Worker
Christine Partlow, Business Manager
Heidi Davis, Secretary

New Hires:

Elizabeth Peterson, Public Health Nurse in Community Health, date of hire 9/19/16. Peterson grew up in Brooklyn Park, but currently lives in Buffalo.
Danielle Monsrud, Social Worker in Intake & Assessment, date of hire 9/19/16. Monsrud was previously an intern here. She grew up in Roseau, but currently lives in Otsego.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Social Services Payments Abstract – \$266,489.60

Action: The Social Services Payment was moved for approval by Borrell, seconded by Husom and carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENTS:

Action: Goodrum Schwartz requested approval in the amount of \$99,478.59. Moved for approval by Husom, seconded by Potter and carried unanimously.

SOCIAL SERVICES/PUBLIC HEALTH/FINANCIAL SERVICES:

1. Presentation: Kinship. (attachment) (Marianne Charbonneau, Julie Szarke-Peura)
Family Services Supervisor, Marianne Charbonneau, and Social Worker, Julie Szarke-Peura, were present to provide the Commissioners with information regarding kinship. Charbonneau shared that they are

required by statute to look into kinship in regards to foster children. Szarke-Peura is currently the Kinship Social Worker, which entails her searching for relatives for children (who reside in Wright County) who have been placed in foster care.

Szarke-Peura shared that sometimes they are able to find family members right away, but typically, it can take quite a bit of research to find the appropriate family members who are willing and able to take the child or children. Szarke-Peura stated that she first meets with the parents to get information about their families. Once she has the family information she draws up a Genogram. After this, she uses the Lexus Nexus Database to look for the relatives. Szarke-Peura stated sometimes she does need to use other internet sources as well, such as, the White Pages, social media sites, and etcetera. Once she has the applicable information, she contacts the relatives to inform them that a child or children are in foster care and asks the relative if there is anything they can provide regarding medical history and what, if any, kind whether they are willing and able to offer the child.

Szarke-Peura stated that the goal is to always try to get the child reunified with their parents at some point and that is why it is especially helpful to have their extended family involved and not just licensed foster parents. If a relative is interested in being a placement option she then does a relative assessment. After this, Szarke-Peura then will set up a meeting with all of the workers involved in the case, the family members, the child and anyone else that pertains to the placement of the child.

Szarke-Peura makes a recommendation to the Court and ultimately it is up to the judge to decide if this is an appropriate placement. Family is not always approved to take these children even though it is the goal. Commissioner Borrell asked where the children stay throughout this process. Szarke-Peura shared that typically they are in a licensed county foster home initially. Commissioner Borrell also asked what the differences are regarding payments to a foster family as opposed to a licensed foster care. Per Szarke-Peura, it is the same payment amount and is only more when they need to contract with a provider. The State of Minnesota has a rating system which determines the child's needs and this is how the reimbursement dollar amount is decided; this is mostly County funded dollars.

Szarke-Peura stated that in 2012, they were below the kinship mandate. Now that they have her working on kinship full-time, they have been meeting the criteria. Commissioner Daleiden asked what the biggest challenge is that she faces and Szarke-Peura shared that is it getting the parents to cooperate so she is able to get the appropriate relative information she needs. Her current case load is 55 and they are in all different stages of the process.

2. Presentation: Foster Care Update. (Jill Marzean)

Jill Marzean, Licensing and Resource Supervisor, was present to provide an update on the non-relative placements in Wright County. She shared that in 2014, there were 148 out of home placements and in 2015 there were 143 out of home placements. Currently, there are 174 out of home placements already this year, in 2016. Marzean shared that foster care is not only to provide a child with the basics of food, shelter and clothing, but also to provide the child with coping skills, family culture and support.

Marzean stated that workers use the MAPCY tool which provides a rate of what the family will be paid daily to take care of the child. The County tries to supplement the family when this amount does not cover the entirety of costs. Commissioner Daleiden asked if one of the parents is required to stay at home and Marzean shared they are not required to be a stay-at-home parent.

Marzean shared that most of Wright County's foster family's become foster parents because of their desire to be good role models for these children, to set an example to their own children, and because they enjoy the nurturing aspect of it. The common deterrents are the out-of-pocket costs to the family, which include costs for required training. Also, a large strain is obviously the stress involved in being a foster parent. Marzean stated this is largely to do with child behavior issues as well as false allegations the child may make about them or even the child's parents may make. There is also fear of abuse from the foster

child to their own children or even themselves. Per Marzean, there is a lot of training on these issues for foster families. Marzean stated the foster families also have many licensing expectations as well as transportation expectations.

Marzean shared that the demand of available foster care is much faster than they can even license a new foster family. In the past several years, there are only five new foster families in Wright County. The shortage has created new issues. One of which is emergency shelter coverage. Marzean stated that they are now using the emergency shelters as more permanent placements because they have no other options due to the increased need. Lino Lakes has been placed on-call for us because we just don't have the space available for emergency placements. Marzean stated that it is obviously much more expensive to contract out.

Another issue is that there are less and less people available who have the proper skill set and knowledge to support certain children and their specific needs. Marzean stated that it would be ideal to be able to pick and choose more so they could place the child in the best home suited for their needs, but that is currently impossible to do due to the lack of homes available. Marzean shared that they are no longer able to provide respite care because those homes are being utilized for emergency needs. Marzean also shared that they typically always try to keep a child in his or her school district. But again, this has not been possible lately because of how full all the homes are.

Marzean stated that moving forward, they hope to connect with previous foster families to see if they would be willing to help with recruitment in regards to finding new foster families. Also, they plan to utilize County interns to help promote foster care by advertising it and getting appropriate information out to the public. Marzean said they are working diligently on a plan to address these needs. Her hope is to have an intern put a lot of focus and resources into their effort to recruit foster families in Wright County.

3. Proposal for Volunteer Transportation Program.

Goodrum Schwartz shared that Health and Human Services is looking into other options for senior citizens who are currently utilizing the Volunteer Transportation Program due to MTM backing out of our proposed Volunteer Transportation contract. There have been 83 seniors who have requested multiple rides this year. Effective now, we are not taking any new clients. We are working with existing clients to set up new options for them.

Commissioner Sawatzke mentioned reaching out to local churches about this issue and Commissioner Daleiden asked if we have contacted Trail Blazer yet. Per Marzean, she said they have contacted Trail Blazers and they do have a volunteer program which could be a potential resource for our current clients. Marzean also stated that this is another task she plans to continually have interns focus their time on.

4. October Employee of the Month - Kelley Bjork.

Goodrum Schwartz announced that Kelley Bjork is the October Employee of the Month. Bjork was nominated by an Outreach Paralegal at Legal Aid. Bjork works with METS cases and MAXIS Healthcare-Only cases. The individual who nominated her said that she has been an amazing help and she always looks forward to speaking to her; she stated that Bjork is very knowledgeable, informative and patient.

5. Unit Retreats

- a. Adult Services - October 10, 2016, at the Wright County Historical Society building (attachment)
- b. Mental Health - October 4, 2016; at Ney Park (attachment)
- c. Child Support - October 11, 2016, at Ney Park (attachment)

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

6. Contracting for Probate work. (Kimberly Johnson)

Financial Services Manager, Kim Johnson, was present to answer questions regarding probate work that

came up in the previous meeting. Per Johnson, there are cases in the County that are at a standstill because they need to go to probate. Johnson provided the Commissioners a handout for them to reference.

Michele Raymond shared that because there are so many different rules and regulations in regards to probate, it is much more cost effective to use a probate attorney who is versed than one who knows little about probate. Per Raymond, the County currently has seven cases right now where a probate attorney would be useful.

Sawatzke asked why this is coming up now. Per Goodrum Schwartz, this need has been on the radar for quite some time. Currently, the County Attorney's Office does not have the resources to handle these cases where there are collection opportunities.

Per Commissioner Borrell, there seems to be some confusion as to what occurs once a home goes into tax forfeiture. He is requesting that Karen Wolff, from the County Attorney's Office be present at the next Board meeting to answer questions appropriately. Commissioner Daleiden has requested that we have a probate attorney attend the next Board meeting so the Commissioners can decide if they feel this is something we should move forward with.

Action: Sawatzke made a motion to have the firm of Young & Brown come to discuss a formal proposal, seconded by Husom and carries unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. August 2016 Financial Statement. (attachment)

Christine Partlow presented the Financial Statement. Revenues are at 62%; Expenditures are at 63%; at 67% of the year. \$316,000 has been collected.

Action: Motion by Borrell, seconded by Husom to accept the Financial Statement. Motion carries unanimously.

2. Director's Comments.

Goodrum Schwartz shared that the State Demographer was here, Susan Brower. Brower shared information on Wright County's population and its increase over the years. Currently, the County's growth is still increasing, but at a slower rate. Our biggest concern looking into the future is the aging of our population with all of the health and related services that will be needed. Soon, a historic change will take place where the number of individuals over 65 years of age will outnumber school aged children in Wright County.

Goodrum Schwartz notified the Commissioners that there is a Health & Human Services Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 30, beginning at 3:30 P.M.

The next regular meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M., Monday, October 10, 2016, in the Commissioners Room, at the Wright County Government Center. Chairperson Daleiden adjourned the meeting at 3:19 P.M.