

Kewaunee County Human Service Committee
810 Lincoln Street – Training Room
October 20, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present for the meeting were Human Services Director Scott Feldt and Deputy Director Melissa Annoye. Human Services staff members Corinne Konkol and Chad Laluzerne. Human Services Committee Chairperson, Virginia Haske. Committee members, Tim Kinnard, Linda Teske, Paul Ravet, Mary Ann Szydel, Milt Swagel, Tom Romdenne, Julie Janicsek, and Rose Quinlan.

Absent/Excused – Joanne Lazansky and Mark Buchanan.

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Virginia Haske at 8:00 a.m.

It was noted that Tim Kinnard's name was missing on the roll call for last month's minutes and should be corrected. A motion to approve the September minutes with noted correction, and October agenda was made by Tim Kinnard and seconded by Milt Swagel. Motion carried.

Public comments –None

Contract Reviews – None

Child Welfare Presentation – Corinne Konkol shared a presentation on the funding streams available for the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Programs. She noted that although there aren't a lot of funding sources, there are reimbursements they can qualify for through the State if they adhere to set guidelines. There were some graphics shared relating to how the Child Welfare Program has looked in the past, and the direction they want to go moving forward. Another graphic was shared describing the transformation from past to present, and the priorities they would like to focus on as a state as they move forward. Corinne went on to talk about the funding and vision intended to support families in their homes, local resources, and recruiting and supporting teams to keep children in family settings if and when temporary separations are necessary. She shared that overall, they would like to take more of a preventative focus rather than waiting until after something bad happens. Previously there had not been any significant State funding available for preventative programming. The State's response to funding constraints was to create a Targeted Safety Support Fund. Corinne went on to discuss this program, and how they can utilize it to target critical points to promote community-based interventions and services. Basically, these funds can be used when children are at risk in home or in short term types of situations. Corinne reviewed the application process and requirements associated with the TSSF Grant. This grant could fund services such as small purchases for safety supplies/equipment, building supplies, respite, etc. Corinne shared that they continue to move forward with the focus of building natural support teams and moving toward a common goal so that when the need arises, they will be ready. They would like to adjust the foster care model to incorporate serving the whole family before doing a placement, incorporate CLTS, CCS, CST as a matter of practice in all child welfare cases, and encourage and promote creative ideas among staff for financial supports. They want to build a management team that moves the department in the most cost effective, and trauma informed way as possible. Changes are planned for staff and management team going forward geared towards making this happen.

Human Services Financial Unit Update –

Financial Manager Brian Johnson provided printouts and reviewed the monthly reports for general finance, billing, contract status, state aid, and vendor reports, also providing clarification to committee member queries when requested. There are a few contracts which may possibly go over so they will be closely monitored. There has been a slight uptake for Winnebago placements in September although it's nothing like last year. Overall, everything looks in line. Administrator Feldt stated that he wanted to make the committee aware of the phenomenal work that our unit managers and programs do. Melissa also wished to reference Corinne's presentation highlighting the use of the TSSF Funding, while also bringing in all of the other programs that have revenue sources to support families before out of home placements are needed in order to keep those costs down.

Chairperson Virginia Haske also commented on her appreciation for the financial updates. She shared that previously there was minimal clarification of financials and now it is all very clear and she couldn't be happier with what she sees; noting that everyone is doing a fantastic job.

Human Services Director Updates – Melissa Amoye

- The proposed budget was shared and reviewed with the County Board Supervisors on Tuesday. Some of the areas highlighted related to the Human Services include the transfer of funds from the fund balance to cover the child placement costs for Chileda. There were also increases in CPS out of home placement costs and crisis in-patient services costs.
- We continue to work on our efforts to improve staff collaboration through the Initiative One trainings.
- Results of the 2021 agency self-assessment were reviewed.
- We have worked collaboratively with Lakeshore CAP and were able to access funds to support some of our consumers who had met certain financial criteria.
- Melissa noted that we working on the client intake and prioritization process.
- The ADRC has moved into the vacant UW-Extension offices upstairs.
- There will be long term space planning for the county as a whole but in the meantime, we've been granted permission to temporarily utilize one of those rooms for play therapy.
- Melissa updated the committee on the two high cost institutional placements.
- Approval was received by the Executive Committee to fill the vacant Director position. Melissa will be transitioning from Deputy Director to Director position in January.
- There has been internal interest in filling Melissa's Family and Communities position by Corinne Konkol, and additionally there has been internal interest in what would become her vacant position.
- Melissa is seeking a recommendation to fill the Family and Community Services Management position, and also open to discussion of potentially filling all subsequent internal positions that will be open as a result of this shifting.
- Essentially, once all internal candidates are settled, we would be looking at posting for one external position.

Recommendation to fill Family and Community Services manager position:

A motion was made by Milt Swagel to recommend the filling of the upcoming vacancy of the Family and Community Service's Unit Manager position and all subsequent vacancies that happen due to being filled internally, and also the one remaining open position to be filled externally. This motion was seconded by Julie Janicsek. Motion carried.

Other Items as Authorized by Law – None

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th at 8:00 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Kinnard and seconded by Tom Romdenne. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Clark
Program Assistant