

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY BOARD
FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

November 15, 2011

SECTION A

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am and adjourned at 9:40am

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dean Shuck
Harlan Madsen
Richard Larson
Jim Butterfield
Dennis Peterson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jay Kieft – Director
Kathy Nelson – Supervisor

Carmen Clementson – Supervisor
Becky Anderson – Social Worker

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Rhude – ARC
Carolyn Lange – press

Bev Ahlquist – press

2011 Chairman – Richard B. Larson

Vice Chairman – Harlan Madsen

Motion made by Shuck and second by Butterfield to approve the November 1st minutes for the Family Services Committee...passed unanimously.

Motion made by Madsen and second by Peterson for Allowance of Bills...passed unanimously.

I. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

- None

II. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A) Kathy Nelson presented a resolution declaring November as National Adoption Month. She briefly updated the Board on adoption activities over the last year. We have one part-time social worker, Tina Mages, dedicating her time to adoption activity. Currently, there are 11 children in Kandiyohi County awaiting adoption. Almost all are in pre-adoptive placements while legalities are in process. Butterfield motioned, with support by Larson, that the resolution be adapted and signed by the Committee Chair...passed unanimously.

B) Becky Anderson gave an update to the Board related to her work with the Truancy Program. Ms. Anderson has worked for Family Services for more than 24 years, and spent the last 15 years working as a truancy specialist. This past year, 159 students were referred to the program. All referrals are for children residing in the county and attending any of our school districts...the great majority from Willmar.

Ms. Anderson noted that the most important factor in successful outcomes is partnership. She describes having formed critical relationships with key school officials and community supports that are vital. Surveys indicate that those closest to the program (referral sources, community groups, families) are very satisfied with the service and consider it to be important to the well-being of families/children.

The truancy program is always engaged in new and creative ways to get students back on track with motivation and attendance...always looking for community connections that can assist towards those goals. Ms. Anderson briefly summarized a number of supportive activities that were completed in the last year: drop-in structured study at our offices, public forum, back-to-school events, summer lunch programs, grants for summer groups (including, for the first time, a boys group) that are service oriented, after schools groups, and a recent grant for a young women's group at the Alternative Learning Center.

There was a brief discussion about the importance of the truancy program...one not required statutorily but obviously offering a good return on investment. The approaches taken are certainly on the pro-active/early intervention scale of services. The community has grown to appreciate these approaches and quickly understands the costs saved, by avoiding more costly interventions at later times, through this work.

III. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Kieft reviewed information summarizing Article IX of "Simplification and Redesign" legislation that passed this last session. Through the DHS county liaison office, work is being done to assure compliance with tasks and timelines that tie directly to human service delivery. Work groups are being formed around the following areas: 1) County Electronic Verification procedures, 2) Alignment of Program Policy and Procedures, 3) Alternative Strategies for certain re-determinations, and 4) Simplification of Eligibility and Enrollment Process.

The direction of these various initiatives is very positive...also very dependent on technology. The centralization of state technology decision-making through the newly-formed Office of enterprise and technology is an essential first step already taken. It is important that, as task forces form, there is robust county representation to add pragmatic/on-the-ground perspective. It is also important that rural interests be represented.

Mr. Kieft also briefly reviewed the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrator's legislative initiatives for 2012 (hand-out). They are themed under three broad categories...not written with great detail...and will be presented as bases upon which to write/support any specific legislation that might be prioritized, or gather momentum from other sources, in the upcoming session. The themes are: 1) Simplifying Human Service Programs, 2) Aligning Funding with Outcomes for Vulnerable Populations, and 3) Investments in Technology.

IV. POLICY**V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

A. INCOME MAINTENANCE

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		
October, 2011		
	October, 2011	October, 2010
Total MFIP cases	238	265
Total DWP	29	29
Total GA	118	115
Total MSA	161	178
	2315 cases/5230 persons	2048 cases/4550 persons
Total Food Stamps	4058 cases	3532 cases
Medical Assistance	3514 adults	2991 adults
	3964 children	3888 children
GA Medical Assistance	0 cases/0 adults	96 cases/97 adults
MinnesotaCare	539	845
Refugee Medical	1	2
Refugee Cash	7	2
GRH	179	179

B. SOCIAL SERVICES

WORKER CASELOAD TURNOVER	
Number of Workgroups open at the beginning of the month	1861
Number of intakes this month	218
Number assigned this month	147
Number of Workgroups closed	103
Number of Workgroups open at the end of the month	1904
REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF LICENSING PROVIDERS	
Child Foster Care Workgroups opened	0
Child Foster Care Workgroups closed	0
Child Foster Care Workgroups re-licensed	0
Adult Foster Care Workgroups opened	0
Adult Foster Care Workgroups closed	0
Adult Foster Care Workgroups re-licensed	3
Day Care Workgroups opened	0
Day Care Workgroups closed	0
Day Care Workgroups re-licensed	4
For the month of: October, 2011	

SECTION B

- I. INCOME MAINTENANCE – Discussion Cases
- II. SOCIAL SERVICES – Discussion Cases

SECTION C

BE IT RESOLVED, that the foregoing record is a true and accurate recording of the official actions and recommendations of the County Board and as such constitutes the official minutes thereof. Payment of assistance, relief, and claims as indicated in these minutes is hereby ordered. The questions were on the adoption of the resolution and the role being called, there were:

_____ YEAS and _____ NAYS

And so resolution was adopted.

Chairman, County Board Committee

Attest: _____