

Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes
February 20, 2024
9:00 AM

Traverse County Social Services Department
202 8th Street North, Wheaton MN 56296

The regular meeting for the Traverse County Board of Commissioners/Social Service Board was held at the Traverse County Social Services Department, Wheaton, MN on February 20, 2024. Commission Chair, Mark Gail, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mark Gail, Chair
Jerrel Olson, Vice-Chair
Dwight Nelson
Chad Metz
Kayla Schmidt

Members Absent: None

Other: Stacy Hennen, Director
Kari Rude, Deputy Director
Shelly Staebler, Social Services

CONSENT AGENDA (Routine Actions requiring Board Action):

A. Approval of Agenda, Minutes of Previous Meeting, and Donation(s):

1. Ave Maria Ladies Guild - \$45.00

Approval of Agenda, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Donations were presented. Upon a motion by Commissioner Schmidt, second by Commissioner Nelson, and carried unanimously, the agenda, January minutes, and donations to the agency were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	01/31/23	01/31/24
Social Services (Workgroups)	61	74
Income Maintenance	714	672
Child Support	58	61
Child Care Assistance - Cases	6	6
Child Care Assistance - Providers	6	6
Totals	845	819

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: Reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. There is one youth in the independent living, 18-21 program; one child placed by corrections; eight children in placement through child protection; and one child on a trial home visit. The director talked about the types and kinds of placements we are seeing, and noted that placement costs continue to remain high.

A. Placements:

1. Total - 11
2. Social Services - 10
3. Corrections – 1

FISCAL REVIEW: Reviewed and discussed.

- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2020 - \$1,470,424.95
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2021 - \$1,650,691.85
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2022 - \$1,751,982.88
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2023 - \$2,150,123.16
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2024 - \$2,131,932.65

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. Budget:

1. The January 2024 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. The director stated that the agency is on track with expenditures and revenues. So far this year, we have no county burials or medical assistance collections.

B. DHS Updates:

The director discussed a brief legislative update regarding a statewide legislative push to require that all social workers be licensed. This is concerning, as there is already a workforce shortage.

The director spoke about DHS considering a centralized intake for child protection reports. MACSSA will be writing a position statement with regard to this. There is concern about the lag time between the time DHS receives the report and counties are sent the report, as some investigations have a response time of twenty-four hours, which starts at the time the report is made.

C. Traverse County Updates:

1. PrimeWest

The director presented the 2024 PrimeWest Health Amendment to the Behavioral Health Participation Agreement/Targeted Case Management Services. Upon a motion by Commissioner Olson, second by Commissioner Nelson, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Clay County Discontinuation Notice

The director provided the board of commissioners with a Discontinuation Notice from Clay County, in regard to the hosting agreement for CaseWorks. The director indicated that there are upcoming meetings, and we will hear what our future options are at that point.

3. CaseWorks Business Associate Agreement

The director presented a Business Associate Agreement, for the remainder on the contract, with Clay County. After consultation and approval by the county attorney, a motion was made by Commissioner Metz to approve the agreement. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt and carried unanimously.

4. Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)

The director discussed the possibility of Clay County opening a psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF), which would be good for the community and people served. Many of these facilities have a long waiting list and are several hours away. The director presented a Board Resolution in support of the facility. Commissioner Nelson made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

5. Business Associate Agreement with Western Prairie Human Services

The director explained that due to the nature of information shared between the agencies, a business associate agreement needs to be in place. Commissioner Olson made a motion to approve the agreement, after the county attorney reviews and approves it. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

6. Summary of Conversations between TCSS and WPHS

The director provided a synopsis of the conversation about the potential merger between Traverse County Social Services and Western Prairie Human Services. A pathway to merge, and a pathway to have Western Prairie Human Services out, were discussed. The board asked questions and had discussion about some of the recommendations listed.

7. Merit System EEO and Affirmative Action Guidelines

The director presented the EEO/AA guidelines required by the Merit System. Commissioner Olson made a motion to approve the guidelines, seconded by Commissioner Nelson. Commissioner Metz voted in favor of the EEO/AA guidelines and Commissioners Gail and Schmidt voted against the adoption of the guidelines. The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE/VENDOR PAYMENTS: Upon a motion by Commissioner Schmidt, and a second by Commissioner Olson, the vendor payments were unanimously approved.

ADJOURN: 9:55am

Next meeting: March 19, 2024 @ 9:00AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen/Director

Mark Gail/Board Chair