

**Traverse County Board of Commissioners  
Social Service Board Minutes  
March 19, 2024  
9:00 AM**

Traverse County Social Services Department  
202 8<sup>th</sup> 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 March 19, 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 Metz, and carried unanimously, the agenda, February minutes, and donations to the agency were approved.

**CASELOAD TOTALS:** Reviewed.

	<b>02/28/23</b>	<b>02/29/24</b>
Social Services (Workgroups)	63	73
Income Maintenance	713	686
Child Support	59	63
Child Care Assistance - Cases	6	4
Child Care Assistance - Providers	6	6
Totals	847	832

**OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS:** Reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. There is one child placed by corrections, and nine children in placement through child protection. One child is on a trial home visit, and one child is placed with a custodial parent, so we are not paying them for that. We have three kids in therapeutic foster care versus county foster care. 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 - 10
2. Social Services - 9
3. Corrections – 1

**FISCAL REVIEW:** Reviewed and discussed.

**A. Cash Balances:**

1. Cash Balance as of 02/29/2020 - \$1,458,155.96
2. Cash Balance as of 02/28/2021 - \$1,596,322.91
3. Cash Balance as of 02/28/2022 - \$1,771,729.97
4. Cash Balance as of 02/28/2023 - \$2,188,307.14
5. Cash Balance as of 02/29/2024 - \$2,065,474.16

**DISCUSSION/DECISION:**

**A. Budget:**

1. The February 2024 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. We are \$122,832.98 under where we were at this time last year in our cash balance. The director noted that this is likely due to out-of-home placements and some revenues not being in yet. The director stated that we are still waiting for some of our fourth quarter revenue to come into the agency. So far this year, we have no county burials, and minimal medical assistance collections. We are 17% through the year; we are at 14% of revenues and 18% of expenditures.

**B. DHS Updates:**

The director discussed the upcoming legislative bills for the 2024 session. There are several bills that the director expressed concerns with for Traverse County. She discussed the potential impact to Traverse County.

**C. Traverse County Updates:**

1. Job Descriptions

The director asked the board to approve moving one of the Case Aide positions to an Account Technician position in Traverse County. Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, second by Commissioner Olson, the motion carried unanimously.

2. IV-E Placement Cost and Reimbursements

The director discussed the cost of corrections placements for the last couple of budgets. Traverse County Social Services has only budgeted \$15,000.00, and is over this expense for the year. Since none of these were IV-E placements, no additional funds were captured to offset these amounts. Traverse County has not had anyone in a corrections placement for over six years that qualified for IV-E reimbursement, or was placed in a IV-E placement. The director noted the performance areas that having the corrections placement in the social services budget was potentially damaging, and the consequences to that. TCSS is currently in a Program Improvement Plan with the Human Services Performance Management Team for measures that are impacted by these kids. Essentially, there is no financial benefit to the county in having these expenses run through social services, and there are both financial and program consequences to having them in our budget. The board discussed it and asked the

director what the potential solutions could be. The director talked about what other counties have done. The board asked the director to speak with other areas within the county that may be a fit for these dollars and to start planning on moving them at preliminary budget time for 2025. The director indicated she would reach out to them.

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

**ADJOURN: 9:51am**

**Next meeting: April 16, 2024 @ 9:00AM**

Attested to by:

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Stacy Hennen/Director

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Mark Gail/Board Chair