

**Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes
July 16, 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 July 16, 2024. Commission Vice-Chair, Jerrel Olson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL:

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

Members Absent: Mark Gail, Chair

Other: Stacy Hennen, 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 Metz, second by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the agenda, June minutes, and donations to the agency were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	06/30/23	06/30/24
Social Services (Workgroups)	62	67
Income Maintenance	730	667
Child Support	58	61
Child Care Assistance - Cases	4	8
Child Care Assistance - Providers	7	6
Totals	861	809

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: The director reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. We continue to have nine children in placement via social services, and one via corrections that we are working with, as well. The one child placed by corrections remains in a facility, and we are now paying the bill. We have four children in non-relative care, two in relative or kin foster care, two in supervised independent living, and one with a non-custodial parent. We also have one child, not on this list, who is in a psychiatric residential treatment facility, and will likely transition to a placement that is funded via the waiver.

A. Placements:

1. Total - 10
2. Social Services - 9
3. Corrections – 1

FISCAL REVIEW: The director reported that the cash balance has decreased significantly, due to us receiving \$300,000.00 less for our first half of taxes. She also noted that it will decrease more when the other \$300,000.00 is taken out of the second half of taxes.

A. Cash Balances:

1. Cash Balance as of 06/30/2020 - \$1,625,922.34
2. Cash Balance as of 06/30/2021 - \$1,811,381.94
3. Cash Balance as of 06/30/2022 - \$2,170,737.32
4. Cash Balance as of 06/30/2023 - \$2,307,061.72
5. Cash Balance as of 06/30/2024 - \$2,046,339.99

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. Budget:

1. The June 2024 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. We are down \$260,721.73. We are 50% of the way through the year; our revenues are at 68%, and our expenses are at 52%. We had estate recoveries for the first part of the year at \$66,000.00, and we are still waiting for quarter two to come in. So, we are on track, for the most part. We have not had any county burials this year. The director and supervisor talked about where Traverse County sits statewide in estate recoveries.

B. DHS Updates:

1. NAACP Data Request

The director addressed the recent data request made by DHS and NAACP. The director contacted the county attorney and explained that even though it is not technically a data request, the elected county attorneys met and came up with a template for a response because they do not want to create a situation where we are named in a lawsuit for failing to give information. Our attorney further explained that much of the information in the request is not our information to give, in that it is not generated or held by us, so we would not be able to give it to DHS. The director also noted that they asked for a lot of law enforcement data which we are not going to be able to give, but that county boards should be aware of, since that may come before them with county sheriff departments. The board asked if our insurance provider, MCIT, had been notified of this so they are aware, since there are active lawsuits on this topic, even though we are not named in them. We agreed that our human resource director would notify MCIT.

2. Department of Child Youth and Families

The director gave the board a letter sent by both the Department of Human Services and the newly-made Department of Child Youth and Families, explaining the separation that is occurring between all departments so they have the information for their information.

C. Traverse County Updates:

1. Sauer Family Foundation Grant

The director discussed the recent grant award from Sauer Family Foundation, and a contract with Meghan Mohs to do the Community Assessment for Traverse County. A separate agreement was prepared for Western Prairie Human Services. The Traverse County contract has a "do not exceed" cap of \$25,000.00, and Traverse County Social Services will pay an hourly rate of \$150.00/hour for active work, and \$75.00/hour for travel. The total amount of the grant for all three counties is \$82,000.00. Traverse County Social Services expects there will be approximately four public meetings, perhaps more based on need, in different communities of the county. There will also be meetings with stakeholders and partners to see what they see as needs in our communities. Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, second by Commissioner Schmidt, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Lutheran Social Service Contract

The director discussed the budget increase with Lakeland for 2025. Lakeland is requesting an increase in services provided for 2025, with an increase of \$2,166.16. Upon a motion by Commissioner Metz, second by Commissioner Nelson, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Third Pathway Option / TCSS and WPHS

The director updated the board on her meetings with staff to discuss the third pathway option that Western Prairie and Traverse County have been discussing. The director has met with all but four of the staff, and is scheduled with two of those, and working on the last two. She will then create a summary of those meetings, go over the summary with the staff, and present the summary to the board or whatever committee is appropriate. The staff have had very normal concerns over their benefits and things that they have earned through their longevity with Traverse County; things that are understandable and were of concern to employees of Grant and Pope Human Services before our merger, as well. The board asked questions and discussed it with the director, and had interest in where the staff were at in this process, recognizing that this is a big discussion for them.

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

ADJOURN: 9:45 AM

Next meeting: August 20, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen/Director

Jerrel Olson/Vice-Board Chair