

Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes
September 17, 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 September 17, 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/HR
Shelly Staebler, Supervisor

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 Olson, and carried unanimously, the agenda, August minutes, and donations to the agency were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	08/31/23	08/31/24
Social Services (Workgroups)	63	67
Income Maintenance	711	680
Child Support	59	57
Child Care Assistance - Cases	4	6
Child Care Assistance - Providers	6	6
Totals	843	816

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS:

The director reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. We have ten children in placement via social services, and one via corrections that we are working with, as well. The one child placed by corrections has recently returned home. 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 transitioned to a placement that is funded via the waiver in August.

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 08/31/2020 - \$1,714,679.15
2. Cash Balance as of 08/31/2021 - \$1,872,345.02
3. Cash Balance as of 08/31/2022 - \$2,303,136.63
4. Cash Balance as of 08/31/2023 - \$2,427,362.61
5. Cash Balance as of 08/31/2024 - \$2,068,165.88

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. Budget:

1. The August 2024 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. We are down \$359,176.73 from last year, as discussed above. Our revenues appear high, primarily because of some smaller revenues that we got that we had minimal budgeted for, and because two larger state allocations for child protection were all received in July. At 67% through the year, our expenses are at 67%, exactly. We had estate recovery in August of \$2,630.49, which brings our total to \$68,747.45. We have not had any county burials this year.

B. DHS Updates:

1. MN Continuous Coverage Unwinding Project Summary
The director discussed the Minnesota Health Care Unwind Program. One million five hundred thousand Minnesotans, in eighty-seven counties, and eleven Tribal Nations, enrolled in the Medical Assistance program. Minnesota is ranked sixteenth in the nation for rates of renewal during the Minnesota Health Care Unwind Program.
2. MAAFPA Survey
The director discussed a local impact note that came out with a survey that is available to counties and county attorneys to be completed within the next month; it came out Monday.
3. AMC Policy Conference
The director discussed MACSSA Legislative priorities regarding children's mental health funding, SSIS monetarization, MAAFPA and the Child Welfare Disproportionality Act.

C. Traverse County Updates:

1. Traverse County Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) Funds
The supervisor discussed the SAHA funds and what they can be used for. The funds can be used for community land trust opportunities that can be helpful to the community. Other counties are teaming up with local HRA's to help with the current housing crisis and homelessness. The commissioners discussed their options and agreed that they should talk to the two economic development entities they have in their county, and see if either have any ideas for using the funds. The director noted that the financial assistance supervisor really did all the work on getting all the data together, and if there are questions on this, she is the person to contact.
2. Senior Coordinator Budget
The director discussed that our budget for 2025 has gone down significantly. Western Prairie has been receiving \$60,000.00 for WPHS and Traverse County, and for 2025 will be receiving \$10,000.00 for all three counties, with no breakout in funds by county. We just learned about this a few days ago, so are still trying to figure out how it will impact us. But, we do know that one large change will be Medicare assistance, and that it will no longer come from us. The director will update the board as she knows more.
3. SNAP Performance in Quarter Two, 2024
The director gave the board a copy of the certificate we received from the state, indicating that our staff had, again, achieved a 94% or higher timeliness rate in processing expedited SNAP, and in the 30-day processing for April-June of 2024. The director reminded the board that we were also the only county in Minnesota to achieve this for all four quarters in 2023. Our staff continues to demonstrate their dedication to the people that they serve in Traverse County, and we appreciate that, and the skill they bring here.

4. Other

The director noted that she would not be at the October meeting, but that the Deputy Director, Kari Rude, would be handling board in October.

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

ADJOURN: 9:53 AM

Next meeting: October 15, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen/Director

Mark Gail/Board Chair