

**Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes
November 19, 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 November 19, 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, Executive Director
Kari Rude, Deputy Director
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 Nelson, second by Commissioner Metz, and carried unanimously, the agenda, October minutes, and donations to the agency were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	10/31/23	10/31/24
Social Services (Workgroups)	65	65
Income Maintenance	696	693
Child Support	58	61
Child Care Assistance - Cases	5	6
Child Care Assistance - Providers	6	6
Totals	830	831

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS:

The executive director reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. We have ten children in placement via social services. 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. There is one placement that the agency does not pay a foster care rate for, because the child is placed with a parent. One adoption has happened since September, and we have one in a group home. Our corrections placement has ended.

A. Placements:

1. Total - 10
2. Social Services - 10
3. Corrections – 0

FISCAL REVIEW:

A. Cash Balances:

1. Cash Balance as of 10/31/2020 - \$1,526,459.33
2. Cash Balance as of 10/31/2021 - \$1,701,541.46
3. Cash Balance as of 10/31/2022 - \$2,199,135.29
4. Cash Balance as of 10/31/2023 - \$2,230,843.74
5. Cash Balance as of 10/31/2024 - \$1,946,055.93

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. Budget:

1. The October 2024 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. Social Services are at 83% for the year. We are down \$284,787.81 from last year, as discussed above. Social Service is at 91% through the year, and our expenses are at 79%. We had estate recovery in October of \$7,401.86, which brings our total to \$109,977.56. We have not had any county burials this year.

B. DHS Updates:

1. State MAAFPA
The director briefly noted that she was appointed to the statewide workgroups by MACSSA.
2. Supreme Court Child Protection Task Force
The director gave a brief update on her presentation to them, and what it entailed.

C. Traverse County Updates:

1. Resolution Supporting Clay County (PFRT)
The executive 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. These facilities are 100% covered by medical assistance, and the county does not pay anything for them. It is a level of care that is higher than residential, but lower than hospitalization. Upon a motion by Commissioner Metz, second by Commissioner Nelson, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Traverse County Adult Protection and Child Support Performance Report

The executive director discussed the Traverse County performance report with the board. The Adult Protection was met with 100% for 2024. The Child Support order established report was at 95% for the county, which is higher than the state. The Child Support paid report showed Traverse County was at 80% for 2024. Overall, Traverse County met the state standards and will not have a program improvement plan.

3. Temporary Agreement between WPHS and TCSS

The executive director discussed the Traverse County contract for 2025. This is a contract that would allow us to begin consideration of the third option that has been considered for Traverse County and WPHS. It allows us to begin talks with the board of mediation regarding personnel and personnel conversations, would allow the state to begin working on any changes that may need to take place, and would allow continued personnel, financial, technology, governing, and any other discussions that would need to take place before a final decision takes place. It is also necessary because without it, we do not have any contract for services starting January 1, 2025.

4. Board Review of Local Fiscal Impact Survey / RE: MAAFPA

The executive director discussed the Local Impact Study that will serve Child Protection. We completed a Local Impact Study for WPHS and Traverse County to answer the question of what it would cost to implement the Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act (MAAFPA), which is set to implement for all counties in January 2027. It also allowed us to have the ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) and non-ICWA data they asked for. WPHS and TCSS total estimated local impact was \$890,911.25. The Local Impact Study was done by the State of Minnesota Local Budget Office (LBO) at the request of the legislature, after counties requested it several times of the legislature. It should be done before the 2025 legislative session. We know that over 60% of counties completed the study, which is a phenomenal response, and about 30-40% of the county attorneys completed their study. The director noted that this took well over one hundred man-hours, and many hours of pulling data and counting by hand, because of the antiquated data systems we have.

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

ADJOURN: 9:22 AM

Next meeting: December 17, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen / Executive Director

Jerrel Olson / Vice-Chair