

MORTON COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE BOARD MINUTES

DATE: January 22, 2019

TIME: 10:07 am

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Del Wetsch, Rose Mary Lawson, Andy Zachmeier, Ron Leingang and Edgar Oliveira

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, Brittany Slack, Office Assistant III, Jo Braun, Eastgate Funeral Home Director, Tom Weigel, Weigel Funeral Home Director and Nathan Grubb, Weigel Funeral Home and Buehler Larson Funeral Home Director

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Del Wetsch. A motion was made by Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, to approve the January 22, 2019 Agenda adding the Approval of the 2019 Morton County Social Service Board Meeting Dates; Morton County Evaluation Completion and the November 27, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes. Board Member, Rose Mary Lawson, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Board Member, Ron Leingang, moved to approve the December 2018 bills. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Budget Review for December 2018 will be reviewed at the February 2019 Board Meeting.

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Bonita Moch, Supervisor of HCBS and Child Care Provider Licensure, distributed Current Case Count for Adult Services, Adult Foster Homes, CSHS, and Child Care Providers for December 2018.

INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT REPORT

Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, distributed the Summary of SNAP statistics for December 2018; Summary of Economic Assistance Program Activity report from December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018; Unduplicated Economic Assistance Caseload Report from January 1, 2018 through January 1, 2019; History of Morton County LIHEAP Benefits from 2013 through December 26th, 2018; History of Morton County TANF Issuance from January 2012 through December 2018; History of Morton County SNAP Issuance from January 2012 through December 2018 and History of Morton County CCAP Payments from January 2019 through December 2018. Also discussed was the rollout of SPACES Phase 2 beginning late March 2019. Shortly after the SPACES Phase 2 roll out the Eligibility pilot will resume.

FOSTER CARE/IN-HOME REPORT

Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, distributed the Foster Care/In-Home Caseload Total Report from January 2018 through December 2018. Social Worker Case Management and Parent Aide Case Totals from April 2018 through December 2018 and the Foster Home Report in which includes total number of licensed homes, homes in process of licensure and inquiries. Also discussed effective January 1, 2019 a Morton County Social Worker went on Maternity Leave. Effective January 7, 2019 Becka Koll was hired to fill the new social work position approved by the Morton County Commission. Her duties are foster care licensing and in-home services. Currently, Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, is advertising for a part-time parent aide.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES REPORT

Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, distributed the Monthly Child Protection Assessments from January 2016 through December 2018 and Morton County Child Protection Reports from December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Morton County Social Service Board Meeting Dates

It was the consensus of Board Members the Morton County Social Service Board Meeting dates are to coincide with the Morton County Commission Meeting dates. This would be the fourth Tuesday of every month with exception to the December 2019 meeting in which will be held on Thursday December 26, 2019.

Morton County Evaluation

Board Members are to have the MCSS Director Evaluations for 2018 completed for the Special Board Meeting on February 5, 2019.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Emergency Temp Positions for Foster Care Licensing and Child Protection Services (Review)

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, informed the board due to the recent hire of Becka Koll as the new fulltime social worker with MCSS. Therefore, there is no need to request a continuance of the part-time emergency hire positions. Also, the board was informed the Emergency Temp Foster Care Licensor and Emergency Temp Child Protection Services Worker positions were kept below the allotted \$36,000.00 for the budget year 2018.

Senate Bill 2124 Recent Information

Chairperson, Del Wetsch, moved the MCSS Director, Dennis Meier, draft a letter in reference to Senate Bill 2124 and the boards position regarding the bill. This letter will be reviewed and acted on at the next Morton County Social Service Special Board Meeting scheduled for February 5, 2018. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Family First Prevention Services Act – Highlights

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed Family First Prevention Services Act – Highlights handout. Discussion followed.

Request for Increase of County Indigent Burial Reimbursement (Tom Weigel)

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed Chapter 700 General Assistance Burials; McLean County Social Service Board Policy on County Burial Assistance; 2 emails in reference to County Burial Assistance within Burleigh County and Stutsman County and an email from DeWise Perry Funeral Home.

Licensed Funeral Home Directors Tom Weigel, Jo Braun, and Nathan Grubb presented on a proposed increase for General Assistance. Discussion followed.

Board Member, Andy Zachmeier moved to increase the overall General Assistance to \$3150.00 for the 2020 budget year. Board Member, Ron Leingang, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Executive Session for Consultation with Counsel Regarding Legal Issue Pursuant to (N.D.C.C. 44-04-19.1)

Board Member, Andy Zachmeier made a motion, Pursuant to N.D.C.C §44-04-19.1, to have the MCSS Board enter an executive session for purposes of receiving a report from the Morton County States Attorney's office. The report is regarding an attorney work product and attorney consultation related to the work product. Discussion followed. No action taken.

Chairperson, Del Wetsch moved to close the executive session with acceptance of what the States Attorney's Office had discussed.

Total number of MCSS cases all programs combined for September 2018 is as follows: Current cases = 3620, opened cases = 255 and closed cases = 217.

Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Board Member, Ron Leingang, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.

Documents provided to the Morton County Social Services Board on this date will be made available to the public upon request.

Del Wetsch
Chairperson

Brittany Slack
Office Assistant III