

MORTON COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE BOARD MINUTES

DATE: December 26th, 2017

TIME: 10:09 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Del Wetsch, Ron Leingang, Rose Mary Lawson, Ernie Fitterer and Andy Zachmeier

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, Brittany Slack, Office Assistant III

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Del Wetsch. A motion was made by Board member, Ernie Fitterer, to approve the December 26th, 2017 Agenda and the November 28, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. Board member, Rose Mary Lawson, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Board Member, Ron Leingang, made a motion to pay the December 2017 bills. Board member, Rose Mary Lawson, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Board Member, Ernie Fitterer, left the Board meeting at 12:26 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

ND Association of Counties Social Service Board (NDACSSB) Dues

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director distributed an email from Arlene Olson in reference to the continuance of NDACSSB for year 2018. Discussion followed.

Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, moved to disband from NDACSSB at the end of year 2018. Board Member, Ron Leingang seconded the motioned. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, moved to pay for 2018 NDACSSB dues. Board Member, Ron Leingang seconded the motioned. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Emergency Temp Position for Foster Care Licensing

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, is to stay within the MCSS budget which will be reviewed at each regularly scheduled 2018 board meetings until no longer needed.

Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, moved to authorize Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, to approve the Foster Care Licensor salary with Wendy Bent, Human Resources Director. This is to be relooked at in the January 2018 Board Meeting. Board Member, Ron Leingang seconded the motioned. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Morton County Social Services Employee leave of absence

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, discussed the possibility of approval for another part-time position within MCSS. Discussion followed.

This subject is to be reviewed again in the January 2018 Board Meeting.

Region VII Social Service Board Committee (Cont. or Disband)

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed Region VII Social Service County Director meeting minutes from 12/1/2017. Discussion followed.

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, will email the Region VII Social Service County Directors requesting input from their respective social service boards on continuing or disbanding the Region VII Social Service Board Committee. Pending their response, MCSS board made the following motions:

- Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, motioned for the Region VII Social Service Board Committee to disband. Board Member, Ron Leingang, seconded the motioned. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, motioned that the remaining funds in the Region VII Social Service Board Committee account be distributed evenly to the counties within Region VII. Board Member, Ron Leingang seconded the motioned. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:**BUDGET REVIEW**

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed the Expenditure Guideline for November 2017 to the Board Members. Discussion followed. Total November 2017 Social Service Expenditures were \$ 258,653.96

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Bonita Moch, Supervisor of HCBS and Child Care Provider Licensure, distributed Current Case Count for Adult Services, Foster Homes, CSHS, and Child Care Providers for November 2017.

IMU REPORT

Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, distributed the Summary of SNAP statistics for November 2017; Summary of Economic Assistance Program Activity report from November 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017 and Unduplicated Economic Assistance Caseload Report from December 1, 2016 through December 1, 2017. Also distributed was the FFM Applications Open Enrollment for 2016 & 2017.

FOSTER CARE/IN-HOME REPORT

Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, distributed the Foster Care/In-Home Caseload Total Report from January 2017 through November 2017. Social Worker Case Management and Parent Aide Case Totals from April 2017 through November 2017 were also distributed.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES REPORT

Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, distributed the Monthly Child Protection Assessments from January 2016 to November 2017 and Morton County Child Protection Reports from November 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017.

Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, and Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, discussed their concerns regarding the case number increase and complexity of cases in the Child Protection and Foster Care programs. These high case numbers make it difficult to stay within caseload standards and provide best practice services. Natalie Anderson, Foster

Care Supervisor, expressed concern the high caseload numbers have created additional stress for her staff. Workers have expressed concerns to management regarding the potential risk of liability. Discussion followed.

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, and Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, plan to bring data to the January 2018 Social Service Board Meeting to further discuss this topic.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Kevin Miller, West Central Human Service Center Social Worker, distributed Foster and Adopt Recruitment & Retention Coalitions handout. Discussion followed.
2. Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, discussed the federal mandate need for computer lock boxes to protect the federal tax information available to MCSS employees. Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, motioned to approve the purchase of the needed computer lock boxes. This expense is not to exceed \$3800.00 and to be funded from the 2017 budget of computer supplies and capital outlay. Board Member, Ron Leingang seconded the motioned. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
3. Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed Custer Health Syringe Exchange Program Plan handout. Discussion followed.

Total number of MCSS cases all programs combined for November 2017 is as follows: Current cases = 3395, opened cases = 234 and closed cases = 175.

Board member, Ron Leingang, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Board member, Rosemary Lawson, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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
Recorder