

MORTON COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE BOARD MINUTES

DATE: November 26, 2019

TIME: 10:09 am

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jackie Buckley, Edgar Oliveira, Del Wetsch and Rose Mary Lawson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Leingang

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Del Wetsch. Board Member, Rose Mary Lawson, moved to approve the October 22, 2019 board Meeting Minutes. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Board Member, Jackie Buckley, to approve the November 26, 2019 agenda. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, moved to approve payment of all November 2019 bills. Board Member, Rose Mary Lawson, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

BUDGET REVIEW

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed the Expenditure Guideline for October 2019 to the Board Members. Discussion followed. Total October 2019 Social Service Expenditures were \$240,924.00.

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 October 2019. Bonita Moch, Supervisor of HCBS and Child Care Provider Licensure, also shared that the Children's Special Health Services Program has been transferred back to the North Dakota Department of Health. In addition, the HCBS unit will be meeting on December 13, 2019 to learn more about the upcoming changes regarding their transition to state employment.

INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT REPORT

Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, distributed the Summary of Economic Assistance Program Activity report from October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019; Unduplicated Economic Assistance Caseload Report from November 1, 2018 through November 1, 2019; History of Morton County LIHEAP Benefits from 2014 through October 31, 2019; History of Morton County SNAP Issuances from January 2013 through October 2019 and Summary of SNAP statistics for October 2019; Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, also shared the resignation of 2 MCSS Eligibility Workers. Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, is currently working on the rehiring process to fill the upcoming vacancies. . Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, also shared that on November 13, 2019 Shawn Riley, Director of ND Information Technology, and additional Human Service staff came to the MCSS to observe the entering and processing of an Economic Assistance application. Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, also shared that an email of concern has been sent to the Department in regards to the open boarders that go into effect January 1, 2020. MCSS staff are worried there will be a significant increase of workload due to this new process.

FOSTER CARE/IN-HOME REPORT

Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, distributed the Foster Care/In-Home Caseload Total Report from January 2018 through October 2019. Social Worker Case Management and Parent Aide Case Totals from May 2019 through October 2019 and the Foster Home Report in which includes total number of licensed homes, homes in process of licensure and inquiries. Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, is still working on the rehiring process to fill the vacancy for a Foster Care Case Manager. Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, Foster Care unit is down three workers from November and possibly into December/January.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES REPORT

Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, distributed the Monthly Child Protection Assessments from January 2017 through October 2019 and Morton County Child Protection Reports from October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, also shared new information regarding the upcoming CPS pilot program. Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, also shared that Meaghan Hoff has been hired to fill the vacant Social Worker III position. Meghan started her employment with MCSS Social Services on 11/25/2019.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Zone Agreement and Review of Steering Committee Activities

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, is waiting for Sioux County's Zone Agreement and Letter of Support. Once received, the Zone Packet will be forward to the NDDHS for review and approval. This information is due by December 1, 2019.

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, reviewed information that was covered at the 11/25/2019 steering committee meeting.

Emergency Temp. Position Updates

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, will continue to provide the board with monthly updates regarding expenditures utilized to fund the emergency temp positions.

Additional Office Space

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, proposed to the MCSS Board the need for additional office space.

Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, moved to allow Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, up to \$20,000.00 to utilize for the completion of two additional office spaces. Board Member, Jackie Buckley, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Total number of MCSS cases all programs combined for October 2019 is as follows: Current cases = 3160, opened cases = 278 and closed cases = 191.

Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, motioned to move the next MCSS Board meeting from 12/26/2019 at 10:00 a.m. to 12/17/2019 at 10:00 a.m. Board Member, Rose Mary Lawson, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Board Member, Rose Mary Lawson, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is Tuesday December 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 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