

## **MORTON COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE BOARD MINUTES**

**DATE:** August 27, 2019

**TIME:** 10:07 am

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

**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, Andy Zachmeier, to approve the August 27, 2019 agenda with a change in moving the Zone Agreement to be discussed after the August 2019 bills. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, moved to approve the July 23, 2019 board Meeting Minutes. Board Member, Ron Leingang, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Board Member, Ron Leingang, moved to approve payment of all August 2019 bills. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

### **BUDGET REVIEW**

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed the Expenditure Guideline for June and July 2019 to the Board Members. Discussion followed. Total June 2019 Social Service Expenditures were \$249,808.39. Total July 2019 Social Service Expenditures were \$245,698.62.

### **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 June and July 2019.

### **INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT REPORT**

Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, distributed the Summary of Economic Assistance Program Activity report from June 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 and July 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019; Summary of SNAP statistics for June 2019; Unduplicated Economic Assistance Caseload Report from July 1, 2018 through July 1, 2019 and August 1, 2019 through August 1, 2019; History of Morton County LIHEAP Benefits from 2013 through July 30, 2019; and History of Morton County SNAP Issuances from January 2013 through June 2019. Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, also shared that Caprice Knapp, DHS Medicaid Director, will be visiting MCSS on September 26, 2019. Caprice will be looking to better understand the Medicaid process as well as identify areas in which state staff and county staff can better collaborate to help one another. Chris Jones, DHS Director, and Shawn Riley, ITD Director, will be coming to MCSS on September 12, 2019. One new eligibility worker was hired and Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, is still looking to fill one vacant position. MCSS is continuing to move towards Process Management. Brenda Peterson, Eligibility Supervisor, will provide updates to the MCSS Board as available; Effective August 1, 2019 there has been a change in the Prepaid Burial allowance.

### **FOSTER CARE/IN-HOME REPORT**

Natalie Anderson, Foster Care Supervisor, distributed the Foster Care/In-Home Caseload Total Report from January 2018 through July 2019. Social Worker Case Management and Parent Aide Case Totals from November 2018 through July 2019 and the Foster Home Report in which includes total number of licensed homes, homes in process of licensure and inquiries.

### **CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES REPORT**

Jenny Wetsch, CPS Supervisor, distributed the Monthly Child Protection Assessments from January 2017 through July 2019 and Morton County Child Protection Reports from June 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Lutheran Social Services request for a MOU for their Healthy Families Program to provide services to Morton County**

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed a Healthy Families North Dakota Lutheran Social Services handout; Memorandum of Understanding. Discussion followed.

Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, moved to deny the MOU with Lutheran Social Services for their Healthy Families Program until the Tri County Social Service Zone is up and running. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### **Zone Agreement and Review of Steering Committee Activities**

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed Human Service Zone Agreement Template; Part One, Part Two, Appendix A and Appendix B. Discussion followed.

Discussion of Morton County Commissioner, Jackie Buckley, to take over the MCSS portfolio. This will be placed on the next Morton County Commission agenda for further discussion.

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, was recommended to be appointed the Interim Director of the zone by the Steering Committee until the hiring of the Human Service Zone Director on or before March 31, 2020.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be on September 23, 2019.

#### **Emergency Temp Position Updates**

Board Member, Andy Zachmeier, moved to extend critical care leave and the need to hire three temporary employees to the end of 2019 with monthly reports as needed. Board Member, Edgar Oliveira, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### **MCSS 2020 Preliminary Budget Request**

Dennis Meier, MCSS Director, distributed the Social Service 2020 Preliminary Budget Expenditure. Discussion followed.

Total number of MCSS cases all programs combined for June 2019 is as follows: Current cases = 3423, opened cases = 168 and closed cases = 182.

Total number of MCSS cases all programs combined for July 2019 is as follows: Current cases = 2975, opened cases = 253 and closed cases = 161.

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 September 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 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