

BAYFIELD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

EOC

October 25, 2007

Board Members Present: Tom Gordon, Kenneth Jardine, Clarence Henkel, James Crandall, Wayne Williams, Ted Benson, Mary Podlesny, Pat Carver, Delores Kittleson

Staff Present: Elizabeth Skulan, Denise Kontny, Jeanine Spuhler, Carrie Linder, Jan Karlen, Deanna Yost, Midge Montana

Call to Order and Introductions

K. Jardine called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Review of the Tentative Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Review of the September 27, 2007 Minutes

C. Henkel motioned to approve the September 27, 2007 minutes as presented. Seconded by W. Williams. Motion carried.

Program Presentation

Deanna Yost gave a presentation on the National Family Caregiver Support Program. This program provides informal care to people over the age of 60 that have special needs or are considered frail elderly. Services include assistance in coordinating services, education and information, case management, and respite.

Monthly Section Reports

Support Services

E. Skulan and D. Kontny have recently spent a great deal of time preparing the 2007 budget projections. At this point in time, the projections indicate that the department will be within budget.

The final 2006 audit entries have been entered and reconciled with the County Clerk's office. The 2006 books are now closed.

One Support Service staff member will be taking medical leave beginning November 9th. She expects to return part time in December and full time in early January.

Aging & Disability Services

Bayfield County facilitated a regional training on the Resource Allocation Decision (RAD) method. The training was informative and feedback was positive.

Providers have been asked to submit their 2008 rates by November 1, 2007. The 2008 contracts will be processed when the rates are received.

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The Tri-County (Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas) Transit Team was successful in receiving a grant to conduct a survey within the three counties. The goal of the survey is to collect baseline data to understand and quantify transportation barriers, particularly for persons with disabilities. The future intent is to apply for a larger grant that will fund development of a comprehensive regional transportation system.

D. Kittleson left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Economic Support

The 2007-2008 Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) began on October 1st. This year, Economic Support workers are conducting energy assistance application interviews for consumers already on their caseload. This change in process is providing better accuracy across other Economic Support programs.

The B.R.I.C.K. (Believers Reaching Individuals for Christ's Kingdom) has combined NWCSA's food shelf and the Chequamegon Bay Food Pantry to create a single food shelf for Ashland and Bayfield Counties. The B.R.I.C.K. is located at 420 Ellis Avenue in Ashland and will be in operation effective November 1, 2007.

J. Spuhler and E. Skulan met with an area high school student on October 16th. The student asked to interview them to gather information for a research paper that focuses on public health care offered in Wisconsin.

The W-2 caseload has remained steady with four clients currently enrolled in the program.

Family Services

The Department of Health and Family Services will conduct a statewide Continuous Quality Improvement Child Welfare Review of the child welfare and out-of-home placement cases. An orientation meeting was held recently with the state liaison to prepare for the review that will be conducted in April 2008.

One of the social workers has returned from a 6-week medical leave.

UW-Extension Family Living Agent, Kathy Miller, will facilitate parenting group training in November. Family Services will purchase two sets of the training curriculum.

Monthly Reports

The monthly financial, training, and waiting list reports were reviewed and placed on file.

Staffing Update

The hiring committee offered the Family Services Manager position to one qualified candidate. The offer was declined. A fourth recruitment will be conducted.

Mental Health and AODA Services

The committee reviewed a letter dated October 2, 2007 regarding the temporary suspension of all non-mandated mental health and substance abuse related services due to budget concerns. The letter outlines exceptions, encourages providers to continue to process requests in case targeted funding is available, and allows providers to justify a request based on exceptional or extenuating circumstances.

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Audit 2006

The committee reviewed the 2006 audit results.

Aging & Disability Resource Center

Bayfield, Ashland, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk and Sawyer are beginning to plan for regional Aging and Disability Resource Center services. The counties have agreed that each county needs both a local presence and enough local control to ensure that residents are appropriately referred to the Managed Care Organization and enrolled into Family Care. A copy of the draft Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement was distributed.

Accessibility

Accessibility to the Human Services Department is very difficult for the aging and disabled populations. In an effort to improve consumer access to Human Services and to be considered for an Aging and Disability Resource Center site, the County Administrator and the Maintenance Supervisor have been consulted regarding potential changes.

T. Gordon motioned to go on record to request that the County Administrator and the County Board address the accessibility issues to the Human Services Department. Seconded by M. Podlesny. Motion carried.

Northwest Wisconsin-Long-Term Care Options (NW-LTCO)

On October 1, 2007, the NW-LTCO consortium received a check in the amount of \$216,889 to fund the next stage of the implementation process. Ongoing funding may be compromised due to the delay in passing a budget at the state level.

Handouts from the October 1, 2007 NW-LTCO meeting were reviewed. The next consortium meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 5th.

Other

There was no other business.

Future Meeting Dates

Future meeting dates were scheduled as follows:

- December 4, 2007
- January 24, 2008
- February 28, 2008

Adjournment

M. Podlesny motioned to adjourn. Seconded by J. Crandall. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Submitted by:

Denise Kontny

Denise Kontny
Financial Manager