

BAYFIELD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

EOC

June 21, 2007

Board Members Present: Pat Carver, Tom Gordon, Clarence Henkel, James Crandall, Ted Benson, Wayne Williams

Members Excused: Kenneth Jardine, Mary Podlesny, Delores Kittleson

Staff Present: Elizabeth Skulan, Denise Kontny, Jan Karlen, Carrie Linder, Jeanine Spuhler, Dianne Heapy, Mark Abeles-Allison

Call to Order and Introductions:

C. Henkel 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 May 24, 2007 Minutes:

T. Gordon motioned to approve the May 24, 2007 minutes as presented. Seconded by P. Carver. Motion carried.

Open the Floor to Public Comment

J. Crandall motioned to open the floor to public comment. Seconded by T. Benson. Motion carried.
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E. Skulan read a letter from Stuart Holman in support of disability services.

Deanna Yost spoke in support of aging and disability services.

Program Presentation:

Dianne Heapy gave a presentation on the BadgerRx gold program that is designed to help keep prescription drugs accessible and affordable for uninsured and underinsured Wisconsin residents.

Free Medicine Program is another patient assistance program that provides prescription medications to low income individuals who do not have drug coverage through either private and/or government health plans. The cost of this plan is \$5.00 per month per prescription.

DHS is using these plans to reduce the cost of prescription drugs that are purchased for income eligible consumers who can be prevented from needing more costly services if they have adequate access to medication.

Monthly Section Reports:

Support Services

The department continues to experience computer related problems. Just recently, two networked printers were damaged during a storm. The County Administrator approved the purchase of six new computers for the Economic Support section to replace outdated machines.

BAYFIELD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

EOC

June 21, 2007

Barbara Suminski was named Employee of the Year at the annual picnic on June 6th. Barbara's positive attitude, dedication, and more than 30 years employment with Bayfield County are just a few of the reasons she was chosen for this honor.

Support Staff are preparing for the 2006 audit and as soon as budget direction is received, will begin working on the 2008 budget.

The 2006 Annual Report is being prepared and will be presented in draft form at the July meeting.

Aging & Disability Services

Bayfield County was awarded two nursing home diversion slots by the state. Kudos to staff Patti Carlson and Sheila Mack in their efforts to secure these slots.

The Senior Farmers Market vouchers will be distributed early this year than in past years so they can be used to purchase local berries.

C. Linder continues to focus on transportation needs. She is working with Ashland and Douglas Counties in a tri-county collaborative effort to obtain transportation grant money and is working with Sawyer County to get transportation from Bayfield County to Cable. She also met with CORE Community Resources regarding their transportation needs as well as other volunteer efforts.

Anita Haukaas successfully passed the exam to become a certified social worker.

Economic Support

Kay Ross completed her new worker training and has been assigned 250 cases. She has yet to be trained on the childcare program.

There is \$3,000 left in the Keep Wisconsin Warm funds to be spent by the end of June.

Comparatively, \$55,000 in food share benefits was issued in the month of April 2007 an increase from \$48,000 in April 2006.

Family Services

Two Family Service staff members are training to be facilitators of a 26 week domestic abuse violence group for Ashland and Bayfield County residents.

Area agencies met to discuss providing education on parenting.

Social Workers are testing the use of laptops in the field.

W. Williams entered the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Monthly Reports:

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

BAYFIELD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

EOC

June 21, 2007

Staffing Update

Family Services Section Manager, Jan Karlen, has given verbal notice that she will be leaving the agency. She will work full-time through June and has offered to work part-time until a replacement has been recruited. The position is currently being advertised with a July 10, 2007 application deadline.

Aimee Hoppenworth successfully passed the exam to become a certified social worker.

Information Sharing from Provider Input Meeting

A summary of the provider input data was reviewed. The information will be considered as decisions are made about funding and the development of the 2008 budget.

Collections / Repayment Policy:

Procedures for the collections / repayment policy will be put in place to facilitate a January 1, 2008 implementation date.

Memorial Medical Center, Critical Access Hospital Designation

Bayfield County representatives met with MMC administration to learn about Memorial Medical Center's pending critical access designation. MMC representative, Kevin Strandberg, gave a presentation at the all staff meeting earlier today.

Outreach Services

At the May meeting, K. Jardine requested that management explore the possibility of providing outreach services in offices that other departments have established in Bayfield County. The management team has explored options in this area, but at this time, has not found any opportunities to provide better service at a cost savings.

Carry Over Funding

The committee reviewed a letter from E. Skulan to M. Abeles-Allison dated May 30, 2007 requesting that 25% of the amount identified as unspent funds from the 2006 single audit be allocated to the D.H.S. risk reserve fund.

T. Gordon motioned to support the letter of request. Seconded by J. Crandall. Motion carried.

Provider Request

A letter from SSI Independent Living was reviewed.

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

Rusk, Price, and Burnett County Boards have passed the resolution of intent to participate in the planning to implement phase to develop and operate a Family Care Program.

A Power Point presentation on Aging and Disability Resource Centers was viewed.

The NW-LTCO Human Services Directors White Paper on ADRC Development dated May 2007 was reviewed.

The next Long-Term Care County Board Summit will be held on July 23rd at the Ramada in Hayward. The meeting is sponsored by WCA.

BAYFIELD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

EOC

June 21, 2007

Close the Floor to Public Comment

T. Gordon motioned to close the floor to public comment. Seconded by T. Benson. Motion carried.

Other

The 2007 Tribal-County Relations Seminar is scheduled for August 1, 2007 at the Lakewoods Resort in Cable.

Future Meeting Dates:

Future meeting dates were scheduled as follows:

- July 26, 2007
- August 23, 2007
- September 27, 2007

Adjournment:

J. Crandall motioned to adjourn. Seconded by P. Carver. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Submitted by:

Denise Kontny

Denise Kontny
Financial Manager