

# BAYFIELD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

County Board Room

June 28, 2018

**Board Members Present:** Larry Fickbohm (arrived at 5:10 p.m.), Kent Seldal, Jim Crandall, Jeremy Oswald, Lona Schmidt, Sue Rosa, Tom Gordon

**Board Members Excused:** Pat Carver

**Board Members Not Excused:** George Newago

**Others Present:** Elizabeth Skulan, Nikki Revak, Carrie Linder, Cheryl Hanson, Jeanine Spuhler, Sarah Traaholt, Martha Oie

## Call to Order and Introductions

Crandall called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

## Review of the May 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Gordon seconded by Schmidt, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

## Public Comment – Limited to 3 minutes per person

None

## Open the Floor for Public Hearing or Public Comment (Limit 3 minutes please)

Motion by Gordon, second by Schmidt, at 5:02 p.m. to open the floor for Public Hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

## Opportunity for Public Comment on 2019 Budget and/or Comments Regarding Bayfield County's Policies and Procedures for Equal Opportunity in Employment, Service Delivery and Language Access.

Martha Oie, Bayfield County resident on behalf of North Country Independent Living.

## Review Written Comments

Skulan read letters from:

New Day Advocacy Center  
Kinship Care Provider

Letters placed on file.

## Program Presentation – State of Wisconsin Child Protected Services (CPS) Recruitment Video

[https://youtu.be/A2eG\\_INLnXU](https://youtu.be/A2eG_INLnXU)

Twenty-nine-minute CPS video was shown. Discussion followed.

## Monthly Section Reports

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### **Economic Support Services – Jeanine Spuhler**

Deena Kacvinsky announced her retirement. Deena's last day will be July 31<sup>st</sup>. Deena has provided nineteen years of quality customer service and will be truly missed. Tressa Harings, Limited Term Employee (LTE), has also given notice. Tressa's last day of work will be July 10<sup>th</sup>. One LTE position is currently posted. Hoping both positions can be filled in 2018.

Several households in Bayfield County were impacted by the June flood. Crisis funds allowed Economic Support to assist vulnerable eligible households with an additional payment towards utilities to help offset other household costs. One household in Mason had over ten inches of water in the basement and required assistance in replacing the furnace.

Spuhler reported that issues with computer connectivity for State Program websites surfaced shortly after the Economic Support computers were upgraded to Windows 10 operating system. Other counties who upgraded do not seem to be experiencing the same trouble. A seven-person team has been formed by the State to tackle the problem. Spuhler is optimistic that a solution will be identified that will result in increased computer speed and greater productivity.

Safe environment and difficult situations security training was held today in Human Services. Deputy Andy Mika, Sergeant Andy Runice and Deputy John Gary provided five escalated scenarios. It was an excellent training experience. Staff did a good job handling the situations. Management team provided snacks and staff were debriefed in the EOC after the training. An improvement list was started for both staff procedure and building safety.

### **Aging & Disability Services – Carrie Linder**

All senior farmers market vouchers have been distributed in Bayfield County. A waiting list has been started. The State often has additional vouchers that are dispersed to the counties. Notice of the availability of additional voucher will not be known until early July.

Moving forward with the Sip & Swipe Café tablet training. Orientation was held on Monday. Bayfield County DHS will host and coordinate sites in Iron River and Cable. CORE will host trainings for the northern area of the county. Thank you to the Cable committee. Coaches are in place and everything is in order for the Cable site to get started.

Met with Northland College to discuss the Bayfield Transportation Survey. Worked on survey draft and distribution list. Hoping to have it distributed by mid-July. Transportation Intern, Haley Perkins, is working remotely from the Northland campus on the survey.

Perkins will also be tag-teaming with Allie Bochler, FS & AD Social Worker Intern, to distribute the survey at some of the senior meal sites.

Allie Bochler is doing well. Bochler is currently using a reference packet from Barron County to create a homeless packet for the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Price and Sawyer.

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Linder is now an official member of Washburn EMT ambulance service. Raffle tickets for the annual fundraiser are now available. See Linder if interested. The raffle will be held at the Brownstone Block Party on July 28, 2018.

### **Support Services – Nikki Revak**

Had a safety training this morning in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office. Management team supplied refreshments during the debriefing. Working on the Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting tool for 2017, due on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Auditors are here. Budget time.

### **Family Services – Cheryl Hanson**

Working with Allie Bochler, Family Services and Aging and Disabilities Intern, to provide a well-rounded experience. Allie is assigned a different social worker each day to shadow and learn about the different services provided. She has been learning about mental health services, foster care, juvenile justice and child protection services. Allie has also been helping with some projects that have been put on the back-burner for some time. We are happy to have her on board.

Attended an Act 78 Mapping-Systems Change meeting in Rhinelander on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Managers or directors who supervise child protective services meet to review a child's death or egregious incidents involving children to determine what factors influenced the event. The team reviews incidents from a systemic viewpoint to determine what could have done differently or better. Meetings are held quarterly.

Family Services staff attended a permanency meeting with Indian Child Welfare and the State's permanency consultant to discuss tribal children that have been in care for over 15 months. The Tribal Council has approved a customary adoption agreement and ICW is developing policies to implement adoption proceedings. Five children are currently being considered for this new process. Parental rights aren't terminated in a customary adoption agreement. So, it allows the child to be adopted without severing ties to parents, community, or culture. Since Bayfield County is fiscally responsible for any children placed out of home by the Red Cliff Tribal Court, customary adoption agreements would reduce out of home costs, which are exceeding the 2018 budget, in part due to the increase in Tribal Court placements.

There has been excitement in Family Services this year: a wedding, new home purchase and an impending grandbaby.

Hanson is thankful that Family Services staff is solid and doing a great job.

### **Monthly Reports**

Monthly reports reviewed and placed on file.

### **2019 Budget Preparation Memo to Department Heads – June 1, 2018**

Skulan indicated that the directive from MAA for the 2019 budget was included in the packet.

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**Discussion and Possible Action** – Resolution DHS No. 2018-03 Commitment of DHS Donations to Non-Lapsing Fund

Skulan reviewed the commitment of donations. Discussion followed.

Motion by Seldal, second by, Gordon to approve Resolution 2018-03 Commitment of DHS Donations to Non-lapsing fund and forward on to the County Board. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action** – Draft 2017 Annual Report

Page number for performance indicators and spacing on Aging and Disability narrative need to be fixed. Discussion followed.

Motion by Gordon, second by, Schmidt to approve the 2017 DHS Draft Annual Report with changes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action** – Recommend Appointment of Bayfield area Citizen Representative to County Board Chair.

Skulan reviewed the two applications.

Motion by Gordon, second by, Fickbohm to recommend the appointment of Linda Schneider as the Bayfield Area Citizen Representative to the Human Services Board and forward to the County Board Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

**Close the Floor to Public Comment on the 2019 Department of Human Services Budget and Comments Regarding Bayfield County’s Policies and Procedures for Equal Opportunity in Employment, Service Delivery and Language Access**

Motion by Oswald, second by Gordon at 6:15 p.m., to close the floor for Public Hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

**Other (Informational Items)**

- A. E-mail to Social Worker Jacqui Grimm from grateful family member
- B. Other

**Future Meetings**

- A. July 26, 2018
- B. August 23, 2018
- C. September 27, 2018

**Adjournment at 6:15 p.m.**

Submitted by Sarah Traaholt, Clerk III