

**Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services
January 16, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Mark McCune. He stated this was an open meeting and representatives from the news media and other interested parties had been notified. Board members present were, Jim Spindler, Mark McCune, Ken Brandt and Deborah Wilke. Jim Schwartz was excused. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn and Sandy Hoefert.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Ken Brandt to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on December 19, 2005. Motion carried.

Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Task Force

Michael distributed information regarding children at risk and information regarding the DEC Task Force. The Board also viewed a 20 minute video tape with discussion following the tape.

2005 Out-of-Home Placements

Sandy reviewed the out-of-home placements for 2005 and the cost for these placements. Discussion took place regarding the placements at Ethan Allen and the difficulties the Department has experienced in getting placements released. Michael and Sandy will meet with corrections liaison to discuss historical concerns and it is the consensus of the Social Services Board to consider no further placements at Ethan Allen because of these issues.

Title V Grant

Sandy stated that the first year of the grant the Department received \$75,000 and the grant year ends on December 31, 2006. She said that the Department has to re-apply each year for additional grant monies and the Department will receive \$50,000 for the second year which runs from June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007. The third year, which runs from June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008, the Department will receive \$25,000.

Workload and Financial Report

Michael reviewed the Economic Support workload and stated that he will check the Family Planning Waiver number listed for November.

Sandy Hoefert reviewed the Social Work workload and the Alternate Care report. She stated that Alternate Care is starting out high, with 12 residential center placements. She stated that there were no other unusual changes in December and that the Resource Center numbers were down slightly due to the Holidays and the agency being closed.

Director's Report

- W-2 Update – Michael reviewed the status of the contract with Arbor E&T and the Department. He stated the County Attorney is working on resolving the office space issue between Arbor E&T and the Workforce Development Center. Michael also stated that the Department received an additional \$18,000 revenue from the Workforce Development Center.
- Long Term Care Reform – Michael stated that he and Jim Strachota signed letters of support and commitment to two separate consortia that submitted proposals for funding to continue planning for long term care reform. Both of the funding requests were for \$100,000. Michael also said that he received information that DHFS received 51 proposals for funds, including two from out of state. Decisions from DHFS on approvals and allocations are anticipated by the end of January.

February Social Service Board Meeting

The February Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Deborah Wilke, seconded by Ken Brandt to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jim Spindler
Secretary