

**Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services
March 21, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jim Spindler, Acting Chair. 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, Deborah Wilke and Ken Brandt. Jim Schwartz and Mark McCune were excused. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn, Marvell Ruppel, Shannon Canham, Sandy Potter, Mary Knoeck and Kay Lucas.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Deborah Wilke, seconded by Ken Brandt to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on February 28, 2005 with one grammatical correction. Motion carried.

Independent Living Services

Michael Bloedorn introduced Marvell Ruppel, Family Services Supervisor and Shannon Canham, Social Worker. He stated that the Independent Living Program is a mandated service. Marvell explained that the program is designed to help young adults financially who were placed in alternate care (foster homes, group care, etc.) for 6 months or more after age 15, to become financially independent and successful. She stated that this program helps with education vouchers, rent and medical assistance. Shannon said that the State offers scholarships for these young adults. Shannon also stated that this program is available to any person that comes to Washington County that was placed in care in any county throughout Wisconsin and she reviewed some of the cases that she currently services.

Title V Grant

Michael reviewed the original Title V Grant information and stated that on March 14, 2005, a meeting was held in Milwaukee for the three candidates to testify regarding the proposal they submitted. At this time, the three counties were informed that the Office of Justice Assistance received an additional \$228,000 from the Federal Government and that each of the counties would be awarded something. He stated that Washington County ranked second and that a revised budget would need to be submitted by July.

2004 – Year End Financial Report

Mary Knoeck distributed the final year-end financial report. She stated that the Department had collected more in refunds and revenues than expected and that the Alternate Care budget was a considerable amount under budget. She also reviewed other financial information with the Board and stated that the Department would be returning money to the General Fund for 2004.

Family Planning Waiver

Michael introduced Sandy Potter, Economic Support Supervisor. Sandy reviewed the Family Planning Waiver Program and stated that the Department currently has 936 participants in this program and only 104 of the participants are under the age of 18.

Workload and Financial Report

Michael reviewed the Social Service workload. He said that workload has remained consistent with the previous months. He also reviewed the alternate care placements.

Sandy Potter reviewed the Economic Support workload and she stated that has been the pattern in the past the unduplicated case count continues to increase.

Director's Report

- Child Care Certification – Michael stated that Department continues to work on this project and will report to the Board in April on the progress.

April Social Service Board Meeting

The April Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 3224.

Adjourn

Jim Spindler, Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jim Spindler
Secretary