

**Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services  
April 17, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Jim Schwartz. 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 Schwartz, Ken Brandt, Jim Spindler and Deborah Wilke. Mark McCune was excused. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn, Sandy Hoefert, Mary Vollrath, Mary Miller, Jill Stimart, Kay Lucas and Sandy Potter.

**Approval of Minute**

A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Ken Brandt to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on March 20, 2006. Motion carried.

**Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Month**

Michael introduced Mary Vollrath, Supervisor of the Intake and Assessment Unit, Jill Stimart, Social Worker and Mary Miller, Social Worker. Mary Miller and Jill Stimart are intake social workers and they explained the procedure followed when a referral is made to the agency, whether it comes from a school, physician, family member, etc. Mary Miller presented a scenario of a call that is received at the agency and the action taken. Jill gave information on mandated reporters. Mary Vollrath explained the decision-making process and the screening guidelines used when calls are received.

**Wisconsin Act 232**

Wisconsin Act 232 is recent legislation signed by Gov Doyle that takes affect October 1, 2006. The significant part of the legislation for DSS is that it removes our mandate to investigate child abuse/neglect by a "non-caregiver". We will have to determine the impact and how to work with law enforcement to deal with this change.

**Customer Satisfaction Surveys**

Sandy Potter, Economic Support Supervisor, gave an overview of the satisfaction surveys for the Economic Support Staff. She stated that the surveys are handed out quarterly to clients when they come for their appointments and stated that most of the surveys have very positive responses.

Sandy Hoefert, Deputy Director, reviewed the surveys received for the social work staff. She said the surveys are mailed out once a case is closed. She stated that the response rate has improved and responses have been very favorable.

**Workload and Financial Report**

Sandy Potter reviewed the Economic Support workload and said that as has been the pattern the unduplicated case count continues to rise. She said there has also been an increase in the Energy Program because the State has provided more money for this program.

Sandy Hoefert reviewed the Social Work workload. She stated that there were two new placements in treatment foster care in March and two terminations of parental rights. She also said that there was a new placement in corrections but it was a change of venue and that it would only be for two months and the juvenile would be released to parents.

### **Director's Report**

- Way to Work Program – Michael said the Department received information from the State on a new program and referred it to the Family Center. After reviewing the criteria and what the Family Center would have to do, they declined and then referred it to the Workforce Development Center.
- W-2 Program Update – Michael reviewed discussions that have taken place with the County Attorney and Arbor E & T. He stated that the contracts should be signed and the move for employees is scheduled to take place May 1, 2006.

### **May Social Service Board Meeting**

The May Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Ken Brandt, seconded by Deborah Wilke to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jim Spindler  
Secretary