

**Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services
May 15, 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, Jim Spindler, Harold Groth, Maurice Strupp, Leslie Borman. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn, Sandy Hoefert and Joanne Faber.

Election of Chairperson, Vice Chair and Secretary

Chairman Jim Schwartz announced that it is necessary to hold an election for officers since this is the first meeting of the Board since spring elections and re-appointing members by the County Board. Nominations were opened for Chairman. A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Harold Groth nominating Jim Schwartz as Chairman. No other nominations were forthcoming and the following motion was made:

“Moved that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Jim Schwartz for Chairman.”

Motion carried.

Chairman Schwartz opened nominations for the office of Vice Chairman. A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Harold Groth nominating Maurice Strupp as Vice Chair. No other nominations were forthcoming and the following motion was made:

“Moved that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Maurice Strupp as Vice Chair.”

Motion carried.

Chairman Schwartz opened nominations for Secretary. A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Maurice Strupp nominating Harold Groth as Secretary. No other nominations were forthcoming and the following motion was made:

“Moved that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Harold Groth for the position of Secretary.”

Motion carried.

COP Committee Appointments: Community Options Program/Long Term Support

Michael Bloedorn stated that a member of the DSS Board serves on the Community Options Program/Long Term Support Committee. Michael gave a brief overview of the COP Committee and their mission. After further discussion, it was decided that Jim Schwartz would continue to serve as a representative of the DSS Board on the COP Committee.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Jim Schwartz to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on April 17, 2004. Motion carried.

Agency Overview

Michael distributed a copy of the Department of Social Services Mission Statement. He reviewed the statement and explained the agency goals. Michael then reviewed the Economic Support System and steps client take once contact is made with the agency. He further explained the different types of clients and eligibility determination. Michael also reviewed the Social Work System. He explained the Resource Center and coverage to meet the needs of the community. Michael reviewed out-of-home placements and the contracts with NOVA, the Youth & Family Program and the Family Center. Mr. Schwartz stated that the Department has done a very good job holding the line in out-of-home placements, further stating that this is an area that can break the DSS budget very quickly.

Workload and Financial Report

Joanne reviewed the Economic Support workload. She stated that the unduplicated case count continues to increase. She also explained Medical Assistance, BadgerCare, Family Planning Waiver, Healthy Start, Nursing Home, General Assistance and Energy Assistance.

Sandy Hoefert reviewed the Social Service workload. She stated that the State is redoing their reporting system because counties are having a very difficult time in acquiring statistics. Sandy further reviewed the Alternate Care report and handed out current rates for clients in Corrections, Group Care and Residential Care.

Director's Report

- a. W-2 Program Update – Employees of Arbor E & T moved from the Department to the Workforce Development Center in May.
- b. Long Term Care Reform – DSS, CCSA and Office on Aging are meeting with other agencies on Long Term Care Reform – Changes in the system in the future and some changes could be significant.
- c. Public Hearing – Scheduled for June 1, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at County Fair Park
- d. 211 – Telephone line to answer social service questions. United Way of Washington County is taking the lead, there is no cost to the County other than United Way is requesting input from the agency and asking a presence be made at meetings. Jim Strachota from CCSA is attending tomorrow's meeting.

June Social Service Board Meeting

The June Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2006 in Room 3224 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Maurice Strupp, seconded by Harold Groth to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Harold Groth
Secretary