

**Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services
May 16, 2005**

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, Deborah Wilke and Mark McCune. Ken Brandt was excused. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn, Sandy Hoefert, Joanne Faber, Mary Knoeck and Kay Lucas.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Deb Wilke, seconded by Jim Spindler to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on April 18, 2005. Motion carried.

Wisconsin Works (W-2) Program

Michael Bloedorn stated that there is a meeting scheduled for the W-2 Consortium on Tuesday, May 17th. He also stated that there was very little information presented at the WCHSA Conference regarding W-2 and the next contract. He said that Washington County did not receive the right of first selection for the next contract period and that the Consortium would have to respond to the Request for Proposal which is due in June.

Joanne Faber explained the philosophy of the W-2 Program and how the program has evolved over the years. She explained how assessments are done, the qualifications for the program and the benefits available to participants of the program. She also stated that most of the participants in this program have significant barriers to employment and employers are not willing to take on these employees because of the paperwork involved.

Mary Knoeck reviewed the current contract with the Workforce Development Board and stated that the Department would need to use \$81,000 from the Reserve Account for 2005.

Michael further explained that the State is considering revising the W-2 program again but did not have any specifics at this time.

Workload and Financial Report

Sandy Hoefert reviewed the Social Service workload. She said that the Department is still getting inaccurate data from eWISACWIS but she is continuing to work on getting the right information. She stated that Shelter is full at this time and all of the TPR's have been completed.

Joanne Faber reviewed the Economic Support workload and she said that has been the pattern in the past the unduplicated case count continues to increase. She stated that Family Planning Waiver has approximately 900 cases and that food stamp and childcare cases continue to increase. She stated that there are currently 36 W-2 cases and the Energy Assistance Program ended on May 15, 2005.

Residential Care Placements

Sandy Hoefert reviewed the current number of youth placed in residential care facilities. She stated that at this time the Youth Treatment Center is full and the Department is looking at placing 6 youth

who do not fit the criteria for placement at the Youth Treatment Center. She explained the individual cases and the facilities that may be utilized as well as cost. Sandy stated that this will definitely have an impact on the Department's 2005 budget.

Director's Report

- Public Hearing – June 2, 2005.
- Child Day Care Certification

Closed Session

A motion was made by Mark McCune, seconded by Deb Wilke to go into closed session. A roll call vote was taken: M. McCune, yes; J. Spindler, yes; Deb Wilke, yes; and Jim Schwartz, yes. Motion carried.

Meeting Notes

Appellant notified the Department that he would not be present today for the hearing. Joanne Faber and Ken Benedum gave an update on the specific case since the Appeal hearing on January 2005. Social Security has been verified. Client receives only medical care through General Assistance.

Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Mark McCune to return to Open Session. A roll call vote was taken: D. Wilke, yes; J. Spindler, yes; M. McCune, yes; and Jim Schwartz, yes. Motion carried.

Open Session

A motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Deborah Wilke to extend General Assistance Medical Benefits through calendar year 2005. Motion carried. (3 ayes – 1 nay)

June Social Service Board Meeting

The June Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 3224.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mark McCune, seconded by Deborah Wilke to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jim Spindler
Secretary