

**Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services  
October 17, 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, Ken Brandt, Mark McCune and Deborah Wilke. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn and Joanne Faber. Also present, Mary Gamerdinger, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County.

**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 September 22, 2005. ACS stands for Affiliated Computer Services. With this clarification the motion carried.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County**

Michael introduced Mary Gamerdinger, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County. Mary explained the history and mission of her agency, matching children from single parent families with volunteer mentors. The caseload has grown from 98 matches in 2002 to 145 in 2003, 185 in 2004 and a goal of 215 for 2005. Even with the increases, 50 children are on the waiting list. Outcomes of confidence, competence and caring are at 90% plus. Majority of program is a prevention focus, but DSS supports "intervention" matches, children already in the child welfare system. DSS funds are \$12,500 annually and covers 10 matches per month. Cost of match is approximately \$1,100 annually. Mary also shared details of screening process for volunteers in response to recent cases receiving media attention. Mary answered questions from the Board.

**2006 Budget**

Michael shared the details of this years budget meetings with the Finance Committee. Finance Committee approved a 2006 budget of \$3,154,261 county levy which includes county monies for W-2. Approved budget is a 2.2% increase over 2005 budget.

**Quality Services Review**

Michael shared information from the recent Child Welfare Services review. Very positive feedback on the work of the Department was noted. Several members also heard the report at the exit conference. Kay Lucas complimented for all the coordination activities.

**Workload and Financial Report**

Joanne reviewed the Economic Support workload. She stated the unduplicated case count will exceed 4,700 in October.

Michael Bloedorn reviewed the Social Services workload and Out-of Home Care report. Mark McCune suggested deleting Child Abuse/Neglect category under the Resource Center since the number has been zero each month. The new categories for the Resource Center are helpful.

### **Director's Report**

- Michael stated discussions with the new W-2 Administrative Agency, ACS, continues. Funding proposal due to ACS by 10/21/05.
- Safe & Stable grants are due today. Will be reviewed by Advisory Committee this week and brought to November Board meeting.

### **November & December Social Service Board Meetings**

The November Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

The December Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Jim Spindler  
Secretary