

## **Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services October 23, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Maurice Strupp. He stated this was an open meeting and representatives from the news media and other interested parties had been notified. Board members present were Maurice Strupp, Harold Groth, Jim Spindler, Les Borman and Jim Schwartz. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn, Sandy Hoefert, Joanne Faber, Linda Hunt, Jamie Gaspardo, Jessica Indiraraj and Kay Lucas.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Jim Schwartz, seconded by Harold Groth to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on September 18, 2006, with one correction that Les Borman was not at the meeting on September 18, 2006. Motion carried.

### **Energy Assistance Program**

Michael Bloedorn introduced Joanne Faber, Economic Support Supervisor. Joanne explained the criteria to be eligible for the program and stated that in the 2005-2006 heating season, there were 1,473 requests for assistance and that 1,233 were eligible and granted assistance. She also said that there were 523 requests for crisis assistance and of that number, 414 were eligible and that there were 8 requests for furnace repairs or replacements and all of those were granted. Joanne also introduced the Energy Assistance staff and explained their job responsibilities.

### **Position Reclassification**

Michael stated that currently the Department has 2 vacant senior social work (Master Degree) positions and because of the workload the Department would like to reclassify one of the positions to a social worker (Bachelor Degree) so that the Department could fill this position with a half time Intensive Supervision worker. Michael explained the demands on an intensive supervision worker and that because of these demands there was a need to add the half time position. After further discussion, a motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Les Borman as follows:

“The Social Service Board approves reclassifying one Senior Social Work (Master Degree) position to a Social Work (Bachelor Degree) position.

Motion carried.

### **Safety Planning**

Michael said that there is a growing concern for the staff safety throughout the county and that the agency does get volatile clients for a variety of reasons. Because of this, the Department is going to hire a trainer to instruct staff on how to react in volatile situations and develop a policy for agency safety.

## **Workload and Financial Report**

Joanne Faber reviewed the Economic Support workload. She stated that the unduplicated case count continues to increase and that we expect to have an unduplicated case count of over 5,000 by the end of 2006.

Sandy Hoefert reviewed the Social Service workload and alternate care report. She stated that another youth was placed in state corrections for 120 days and that the Department is seeing an increase in delinquent children in the community.

## **Director's Report**

- a. 2007 Budget & Plan - The budget was approved for a 2.6% increase for 2007 and that there will no longer be a W-2 reserve account. He stated that no longer having a reserve account there will be huge impact on the 2008 budget and the Department runs the risk of placements outside of the county.
- b. Long Term Care Reform – Aging & Disability Resource Center – The ADRC will not be a part of the DSS Budget in 2007, it will be on its own. Michael will keep the Board apprised of the development in creating the ADRC.

## **November Social Service Board Meeting**

The November Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2006 in Room 3224 at 9:00 a.m.

## **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Harold Groth, seconded by Les Borman to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Harold Groth  
Secretary