

**Minutes of the Board of the Department of Social Services
November 20, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice 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 Harold Groth, Jim Spindler, Les Borman and Jim Schwartz. Maurice Strupp was excused. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn, Sandy Hoefert, Joanne Faber, Jenny Kertscher, and Kay Lucas.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Harold Groth, seconded by Les Borman to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on October 23, 2006. Motion carried.

Committee Appointments

Michael Bloedorn stated that he received a memo from Doug Johnson, Administrative Coordinator regarding appointments of committee representatives. The memo stated that in the past these representatives were selected by the County Board Chair but the County Board Chair is requesting that each respective liaison committee chair select a representative. The first committee assignment is to the Bargaining Committee for labor negotiations. After further discussion, a motion was made by Jim Schwartz, seconded by Harold Groth, as follows:

“The Social Service Board agrees to postpone action on this item until the December 18, 2006, board meeting.

Motion carried.

Michael also reviewed the Long Term Care Reform committee. He stated that a liaison committee needed to be formed to review the long term care redesign. After further discussion, a motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Harold Groth, as follows:

“The Social Service Board nominates Jim Schwartz to serve on the Long Term Care Redesign liaison committee.”

Motion carried.

Resolution: Designation as Elder Adult-at-Risk Agency

Michael presented with Board with the 2006 Resolution – Designation of Elder-Adult-at-Risk Agency and reviewed the resolution. He further explained the difference between the current system and the changes that would take place with this resolution. After further discussion, a motion was made by Les Borman, seconded by Harold Groth as follows:

“The Social Service Board accepts the 2006 Resolution – Designation of Elder-Adult-At Risk Agency as presented and forward to the County Board for further approval.”

Motion carried.

Position Reclassification

Michael reviewed the positions in the Clerical Unit. He stated that with the increase in workload in the Economic Support area the Department felt that by reclassifying two clerk typists to program supports clerks, the Department would be able to assign duties to the program support clerks that would help alleviate some of the workload of the ES Specialists. After further discussion, a motion was made by Harold Groth, seconded by Les Borman as follows:

“The Social Service Board approves the reclassification of two Clerk Typists to Program Support Clerks as presented and forward to the Administrative Committee for further approval.”

Motion carried.

General Assistance Program

Michael also introduced the 2006 Resolution – Grant Application – General Relief Program Participation. He stated that this is a required resolution and that it has to be done every year. After further discussion, a motion was made by Jim Spindler, seconded by Harold Groth as follows:

“The Social Service Board accepts the 2006 Resolution – Grant Application – General Relief Program Participation – as presented and forwards to the County Board for further approval.”

Motion carried.

Joanne stated that the last change to the General Assistance Policy was on July 21, 2003 and a concern is the monthly rent allowance. She stated that the Department is trying to bring the policy in line with Social Security standards and reviewed the Social Security standards. She also stated that the Department would like to change the incapacitation requirement from 60 to 90 days and would like clarification on the “once in a lifetime benefit”. After further discussion, a motion was made by Harold Groth, seconded by Les Borman as follows:

“The Social Service Board in reviewing and discussing the current General Assistance policy, raises the rent allocation to \$300, extends the incapacitation requirement from 60 to 90 days and the clarifies the “once-in-a-lifetime benefit” is exactly that, once in a lifetime.”

Motion carried.

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.

Purchase of Service Contracts

Michael stated that the Department contracts over \$1 million in services from outside agencies. He said the Department has been receiving concerns on one of the contract agencies that supplies AODA services for delinquents and because of the complaints the Department would be sending out a letter to this agency to inform them that the contract would end on December 31, 2006 and the Department will be sending out an RFP to pursue other agencies to run this program.

Director's Report

- a. Long Term Care Reform Conference

December Social Service Board Meeting

The December Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2006 in Room 3224 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Les Borman, seconded by Harold Groth to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Harold Groth
Secretary