

Minutes of the Board of December 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Secretary Harold Groth. 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 Spindler, Les Borman and Harold Groth, Jim Schwartz and Maury Strupp. Also present Linda White, Youth & Family Project – Gingerbread House. Staff members present were Michael Bloedorn, Sandy Hoefert, Kay Lucas and Joanne Faber.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Les Borman, seconded by Harold Groth to approve the minutes of the Social Services Board meeting held on November 19, 2007. Motion carried.

Gingerbread House Project – Youth & Family

Michael introduced Linda White, coordinator for the Gingerbread House Project through Youth & Family. He stated that the Department had been running the Toys for County Kids program for many years but with changes that have taken place at the Department, the agency would no longer have the available staff to do the program. Michael said that he felt since Youth & Family had the Gingerbread House, that it would be a great fit for the agency program. Upon meeting with the Director for Youth & Family, Dan Laurent, the program was moved to Youth & Family. Linda White said that currently for the 2007 season, there are 350 families requesting help with Christmas. She stated that combining the programs will be a learning process this year but is very optimistic that donors will be found to adopt all the families. She also said that the Gingerbread House would be located next to Pick-N-Save in building space donated by George Prescott. She invited all board members to the site to see how the program is run.

Safe & Stable Families Grant

Michael said that the Department has received a letter from the Department of Health & Families Services that there would be no additional money for 2008, that it should be the same as 2007 and that if the Department wanted to continue these programs as currently are all the Department would have to do is submit a letter stating that intention. After further discussion, a motion was made by Jim Schwartz, seconded by Les Borman as follows:

“The Social Service Board approves the Safe & Stable Families Grant for 2008 as presented.”

Motion carried.

Hartford Office

Michael stated that the Department of Social Services is one of four partners involved in the Hartford Office. The other three are Moraine Park Technical College, Workforce Development Center and Job Services. He stated that the Workforce Development Center and Job Services would be leaving that office in June of 2008. He further stated that as partners leave the facility more and more responsibility is placed on the Department of Social Services. He said that currently the Department has one Economic Support Staff person located in the office and there are over 700

clients in Hartford. He said that Doug Johnson, Administrative Coordinator, would like him to contact other agencies within the County system to see if there is a need for them to have a location in Hartford.

Family Care

Michael stated that the resolution for Family Care was passed to move forward with the State. He stated that the first year the County's contribution to that contract would be \$2.7 million and would decrease each year after that until the fifth year. He stated meetings with the Care Management Organizations are continuing.

Workload Report

Joanne Faber reviewed the Economic Support workload and stated that the unduplicated case count continues to increase and most of the increase is in the different medical assistance categories.

Sandy Hoefert reviewed the Social Service workload and alternate care report. She stated that Family Court studies continue to increase and due to the increase the Department may have to pursue hiring a part-time social worker to do the studies.

Director's Report

- Economic Support Division – Effective January 1, 2008, Sandy Potter will become Economic Support Manager and on January 8, 2008, Kay Liesse will become the Supervisor for the Family Unit and Linda Hunt will become the supervisor for the Adult Unit.
- Director's Annual Evaluation in January

January Social Service Board Meeting

The January Social Service Board meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 3005.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Jim Schwartz, seconded by Les Borman to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Harold Groth
Secretary