

ONEIDA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
June 26, 2012

Members present: Ms. Carol Pederson, Mr. Paul Dean, Mr. Bob Metropulos, Ms. Candy Sorensen

Absent: Mr. Bob Martini

Staff: Mr. Paul E. Spencer, Jr., Ms. Mary Gadzalinski, Ms. Donna Levknecht

1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 9:01 a.m. by Ms. Carol Pederson, Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion made by Mr. Paul Dean, seconded by Ms. Candy Sorensen to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of Social Services Committee - May 22, 2012:

Motion made by Mr. Paul Dean, seconded by Mr. Bob Metropulos to approve the Social Services Committee minutes of May 22, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. ADRC and Social Services Coordination:

Mr. Paul E. Spencer, Jr. provided the committee with a handout on the coordination of benefits between the ADRC and Social Services. The ADRC is now up and running. An agreement has been made to have a manager from the ADRC and Social Services meet weekly to coordinate services so they are not duplicated. The committee was advised the ADRC is only able to provide services for 30 days, while the department can provide services until the need ends. A new target group

5. Vacancy Review Certified Social Worker:

The committee was provided with an organization chart for the department. This vacancy was a result of this person taking a job at Ministry Medical. The Vacancy Review has been signed off by Ms. Lisa Charbarneau, Human Resource Director, as there is no waiting period. The committee was informed that we are losing approximately \$6800 a month in revenue that helps offset costs. Motion made by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Mr. Paul Dean to send the Certified Social Worker Vacancy Review on to Labor Relations/Employee Services to be filled. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Vacancy Review Typist II:

The committee was advised that this position has been vacant for over 6 months. It is recommended that this position change from full time to part time (3 days per week). This position change to less than full time is a result of enhanced

computer programs. Motion made by Ms. Carol Pederson, seconded by Mr. Bob Metropulos to pass the Typist II vacancy change from full time to part time (3 days per week) on to Labor Relations/Employee Services for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Program Review: Children and Family Services:

Ms. Mary Gadzalinski, Social Work Supervisor provided the committee with a handout showing the services provided by her unit. Some of the services are Children in Need of Protection (CHIPS), Juveniles in Need of Protection (under age 10) (JIPS), Child Welfare concerns, Uncontrollable child or Runaway, Truancy, Step Parent Adoptions, Foster homes, Kinship Care and Independent Living.

The committee was informed that staff can take children in to custody at any time, as there is a staff member on call 24/7. When children are taken in to custody they can be placed in a foster home, or staff look for a close relative or friend of the family to care for the children. Background checks are completed prior to placing a child in a home.

This unit is responsible for the Department's intake, except for Economic Support's unit. The social workers work closely with and have a good relationship with Rhinelander Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Corporation Counsel, judges and have many community partners.

Drug abuse is becoming more prevalent. Law enforcement has provided updated information to staff on drugs and what to look for when in a home. There is also an increase in mental health issues with clients.

A task force has been developed to work with truancy. The goal is to get children back in to school quicker. Truancy court is now held every week, instead of monthly. Judges are now using new techniques for keeping children in school by taking things away, such as cell phones, computers and even skate boards.

Children who turn 18 while in care, are taught skills to live on their own and can be helped out through grants for such things as rent, additional schooling, and teaching independent skills.

The committee was informed of the statewide eSacwis system that documents all cases and can be accessed by all state Social Services Departments, so if a client moves to a different area, that department can access information.

8. 2012 Financial/Statistical/Flex Time Reports:

The committee reviewed the Financial/Statistical/Flex Time Reports. It is projected that approximately \$410,745.16 will be returned to the county. Motion made by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Ms. Candy Sorensen to approve the 2012 Financial/Statistical/Flex Time reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Audit of Payments and final 2011 Line Item Transfers:

The bills and Line Item transfers were reviewed by the committee. Motion made by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Mr. Paul Dean to approve the bills and line item transfers as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Agenda items for the July 24, 2012 meeting:

One item for next agenda will be updated Department Informational document.

11. Adjourn:

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Bob Metropulos, seconded by Ms. Candy Sorensen to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be July 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Candy Sorensen, Secretary