

**Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes
February 21, 2023
9:00 AM**

Traverse County Social Services Department
202 8th Street North, Wheaton MN 56296

The regular meeting for the Traverse County Board of Commissioners/Social Service Board was held at the Traverse County Social Services Department, Wheaton, MN on February 21, 2023. Commission Chair, Kayla Schmidt, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Gail
Dwight Nelson
Jerrel Olson
Kayla Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chad Metz

CONSENT AGENDA (Routine Actions requiring Board Action):

- Approval of Agenda, Minutes of Previous Meeting, and Donations received from:
 - 1) Ave Maria Ladies Guild - \$45.00

Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, second by Commissioner Gail, and carried unanimously, the agenda, February minutes, and donations were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	01/31/2022	01/31/2023
Social Services (Workgroups)	79	61
Income Maintenance	698	714
Child Support	72	58
Child Care Assistance - Cases	5	6
Child Care Assistance - Providers	7	6
Totals	861	845

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: Reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. There are three children using the independent living, 18-21 program; one other child in placement; and one corrections placement. The corrections placement is new and is not detention, but is shelter care, so social services pays for it.

- Total - 4
- Social Services - 4
- Corrections – 0

FISCAL REVIEW: Reviewed and discussed.

- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2019 - \$1,471,388.83
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2020 - \$1,470,424.95
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2021 - \$1,650,691.85
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2022 - \$1,751,982.88
- Cash Balance as of 01/31/2023 - \$2,150,123.16

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. BUDGET:

1. The January 2023 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. Our cash balance is up \$398,140.28 from January of last year. The director noted that we did receive some bills from last year that will be taken out this month, therefore will not show up until next month. We collected more in medical assistance recovery than planned, and the state bills us for 75% of that after we report it. So, that will come out next month, and is around \$50,000.00. Our out-of-home placements remain lower for now. Those numbers can fluctuate without notice or ability to plan. We are at 8% of the way through the year at the end of January. We are at 2% for revenues, and 7% for expenditures. Estate recoveries received in January totaled \$1,712.25. Those are

state and federal expenditures, and we keep 25% of that for our staff time in collecting. There have not been any county burials, so far, in 2023.

B. DHS UPDATES:

1. The director spoke about the loss of SNAP food support for people in our community, because of the end of the federal emergency. This will be a monthly loss, or decrease, of about \$90,000.00 a month that goes to our clients. It is estimated that a large percentage of these dollars are spent locally on places like grocery stores, gas stations, and any retail stores that sell food products. Research says that for every \$1.00 that is spent on SNAP, a community sees \$7.00 in return. The board was concerned about how this would impact the people we serve; and we discussed the importance of food shelves, and what we were doing to get that information out to the communities.
2. The director and supervisor indicated that with the federal emergency ending, it will also impact medical assistance. Renewals will start again for the month of July, with notices being sent out in April. We are preparing for that internally, as well. There is potentially money coming from the legislature to help counties deal with this influx. People will have to complete new applications, since renewals have not been done in three years. The director talked about churn and the impact of that for the people who are eligible. The director and supervisor went over some of the ideas for using any assistance we may get from the legislature.

C. TRAVERSE COUNTY UPDATES:

1. The director spent a considerable amount of time going over a document she created for the board, to talk about the relationship between Traverse County (TC) and Western Prairie Human Services (WPHS). The director briefly reviewed the history of the relationship and the services that WPHS, formerly Grant County Social Services, has provided to Traverse County, and indicated that we are almost halfway through a three-year contract. Traverse County will need to look at their options when this contract expires on December 31, 2024, and the director wants to do whatever she can to make sure that the TC board has what they need in order to make the best decision for Traverse County and the people they serve. The director asked that the board look over the service provided and we will review them in more detail next month. For this month, the director focused on the options available to TC when the contract expires, and an estimate of the cost of "Option 1". The director also focused on the staff and what they will need and want, and how to make sure that we respect what they bring to Traverse County, and hear their concerns, regardless of what final decision they make. The board chair indicated she would like Traverse County board members and the County Coordinator to talk to the staff about these options without the director, since the director is employed by WPHS. The director indicated she understood that, and had no issue with that. This document has been reviewed by the WPHS Executive Committee, and will go to the board in April. The board agreed that we need time to look at the options, and that we should revisit this with more time to review the information that they have been given.

ADMINISTRATIVE/VENDOR PAYMENTS: Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, second by Commissioner Olson, the vendor payments were unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Next meeting: March 21, 2023 @ 9:00AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen/Director

Kayla Schmidt/Board Chair