

**Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes**

April 18, 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 April 18, 2023. Commission Chair, Kayla Schmidt, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Gail
Chad Metz
Dwight Nelson
Jerrold Olson
Kayla Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 Metz, second by Commissioner Olson, and carried unanimously, the agenda, March minutes, and donations were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	03/31/2022	03/31/2023
Social Services (Workgroups)	74	65
Income Maintenance	698	709
Child Support	72	62
Child Care Assistance - Cases	5	5
Child Care Assistance - Providers	7	7
Totals	856	848

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: Reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. There are three children using the independent living, 18-21 program; and one other child in placement.

- Total - 5
- Social Services - 5
- Corrections - 0

FISCAL REVIEW: Reviewed and discussed.

- Cash Balance as of 03/31/2019 - \$1,365,024.10
- Cash Balance as of 03/31/2020 - \$1,392,533.81
- Cash Balance as of 03/31/2021 - \$1,540,172.96

- Cash Balance as of 03/31/2022 - \$1,726,513.13
- Cash Balance as of 03/31/2023 - \$2,105,879.30

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. BUDGET:

1. The March 2023 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. Our cash balance is up \$379,366.17 from March of last year. The director noted that our cash balance is down a little from last month, and that is pretty normal, since we haven't gotten our first half of taxes, yet. We are 25% of the way through the year at the end of March. We are at 13% for revenues, and 20% for expenditures. So, our spending is actually pretty close to budget, thus far. There have not been any county burials through March, but that will change in April.

B. DHS UPDATES:

1. The director talked about legislation that is being considered, particularly the following:
 - a. A letter to the editor in the Star Tribune written by the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA). It asks for support for a bill that would make an investment of over \$100 million dollars into the modernization of state systems. The director updated the board on our systems, and why we need modernization. The director noted that while the current systems desperately need modernization, we want to stress that counties should be involved in the process and project as a partner, not just a stakeholder.
 - b. Marijuana Legalization: The director noted that legalization of recreational marijuana is likely to pass this year. The director also noted the concerns this will bring up in child protection, and the requests we have made to the state to address the potential impacts to us by changing and addressing any necessary statutes or rules.
 - c. The director talked about some proposed changes to the "Does Not Meet Criteria" (DNMC) costs that counties are sustaining because the state can't move people between their own programs. The director also noted that we are in danger of paying DNMC costs for a person the county attorney recently committed. Costs for that range from \$2,000.00 - \$5,000.00 per day.
 - d. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): ICWA is being challenged in the federal court, and the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing a case that may overturn ICWA. ICWA addresses how we handle Native American children in child protection instances. It sets a higher threshold of efforts and care than is required for other children. These laws are being heard in the legislature, and some are still being reviewed and discussed.
 - e. Separating Children's Services out of DHS and into their own agency: This is being proposed in the governor's budget. Counties are engaged in the process, and have been participating in a small committee to talk about it. The director is on that committee, representing counties through MACSSA.
 - f. Family Resource Centers: Some legislation and potential bonding bills are coming together to get family resource centers for child protection up and started in each region or county.
 - g. High Acuity Placements: There is a suggestion of a task force to look at numbers this is impacting, and methodology to do so. There are many different interests at play here.

C. TRAVERSE COUNTY UPDATES:

1. The director presented a Family Child Care Month Proclamation for the board to consider approving. May is Child Care month. Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Gail, the Proclamation was approved unanimously.
2. The director reviewed the letter we received from DHS praising our fiscal department for completing all of their quarterly reports in 2022 on time. The director noted that our supervisor completes these reports, and there is a great deal that goes into it. The supervisor completed thirty-two reports on time in 2022 to ensure that we reported all of our expenses both for reporting and auditing purposes, and in order to accurately draw down federal dollars. The board thanked the supervisor for her hard work.
3. The director indicated that she will be sending out invitations for the remainder of 2022 for the Western Prairie Executive Committee to those commissioners who agreed to be a part of those meetings. The director noted that she will send the dates, times, and zoom link, as that is an option for every meeting, both in an e-mail and in a calendar invite.
4. The director explained to the board that Western Prairie Human Services (WPHS) will close their offices for an afternoon in May, for an all-staff training. WPHS would like to invite the Traverse County Social Services (TCSS) staff to attend the training. The director asked the board to allow us to close our offices for an afternoon, so that TCSS staff members could participate in the training. The director noted that the training will cover data retention, a self-care workshop, and at least one other topic. Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, and seconded by Commissioner Metz, the board approved closing for an afternoon, as long as we post it with enough time for the public to be aware.

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

Adjourn

Next meeting: May 16, 2023 @ 9:00AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen/Director

Kayla Schmidt/Board Chair