

**Traverse County Board of Commissioners
Social Service Board Minutes
July 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 July 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
Jerrel Olson
Kayla Schmidt

AGENDA ADDITION(S):

- The Social Services Supervisor introduced the new Western Prairie social worker, Morgan Mithun, to the board. She will primarily be in Traverse County, once she is fully trained. She will work with the Traverse County social worker assigned to child protection, as well as the Western Prairie staff.

CONSENT AGENDA (Routine Actions requiring Board Action):

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Nelson, second by Commissioner Olson, and carried unanimously, the agenda, donation to the agency, and June minutes were approved.

CASELOAD TOTALS: Reviewed.

	06/30/22	06/30/23
Social Services (Workgroups)	76	62
Income Maintenance	701	730
Child Support	65	58
Child Care Assistance - Cases	5	4
Child Care Assistance - Providers	8	7
Totals	855	861

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: Reviewed and discussed the placement numbers. There are currently two children using the independent living, 18-21 program; one child placed by corrections; and three children in placement through child protection.

- Total - 6
- Social Services - 5
- Corrections – 1

FISCAL REVIEW: Reviewed and discussed.

- Cash Balance as of 06/30/2019 - \$1,614,004.01
- Cash Balance as of 06/30/2020 - \$1,625,922.34
- Cash Balance as of 06/30/2021 - \$1,811,381.94
- Cash Balance as of 06/30/2022 - \$2,170,737.32
- Cash Balance as of 06/30/2023 - \$2,307,061.72

DISCUSSION/DECISION:

A. BUDGET:

1. The June 2023 Financial Summary was reviewed with the board. Our cash balance is up \$136,324.40, which is down significantly from other months, from June of last year. We are 50% of the way through the year at the end of June. We are at 43% for revenues, and 37% for expenditures. Our revenues are close to budget thus far, and

our expenses are a little low. One thing that impacts our expenses is the payment to WPHS for contracted expenses come in quarters, so they won't have billed that yet in time for this report. Fortunately, our out-of-home placement costs have been low. There have been two county burials for the year, as of June. Thus far, we have collected \$37,362.70 in estate recoveries; we keep 25% of that total, and the remainder goes to DHS.

B. DHS UPDATES:

1. The director updated the board on the state's process in looking at adding an entirely new department, named the Department of Children, Youth and Family Services (DCYF). There are a lot of details that still need to be worked out. Counties have taken the approach of making sure that the state is considering the interplay between departments for all stakeholders, as well as looking at the quality of services. To make all of this worthwhile, it not only has to do no harm to the people we serve, it also needs to add something and be helpful for them.
2. The director touched briefly on some data requests that the state and some other counties have received about child mortality, and where that is going. There is likely to be a lot of media attention on this. The last time that happened, there were a lot of changes that occurred to the child welfare system. The director noted that she would keep them up to date on this.
3. The director touched on the numerous task forces and workgroups that came out of the 2023 legislative session.

C. TRAVERSE COUNTY UPDATES:

1. The director presented the contract for the 2023-2024 school assistance program that we help fund through Lutheran Social Services. The rates have increased by 3%, and all other terms remain the same. The service is useful; they meet with children in our office during the summer, if needed, to main a child's treatment plan. Upon a motion by Commissioner Olson, and a second by Commissioner Nelson, the motion carried unanimously, and the contract was approved.
2. The director spent considerable time going over the fiscal allocations that we receive from the state. She noted that most are very program-specific, and go directly to a service or client. We report the spent money in our quarterly reports, and get reimbursed after that. If we do not spend the money, we do not get any. The director noted that we have claimed very little Community Support dollars for adults with mental health issues, because we have no providers willing to meet the service need in Traverse County. We would like to look at a way to change this.
3. The director reviewed Traverse County's historical and current targeted case management rates for child welfare, and adult and children's mental health targeted case management. The director noted the trends that we are seeing. We talked about the difference in rates from medical assistance, our PMAP of Blue Plus, and our county-based purchasing entity of PrimeWest. The director noted that these rates changed in the middle of the year, so that can be impactful for us, in terms of budgeting.
4. The director updated the board on the work being done, so far, on the building and furniture.

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

Adjourn

Next meeting: August 15, 2023 @ 9:00AM

Attested to by:

Stacy Hennen/Director

Kayla Schmidt/Board Chair