

## **Trempealeau County Human Services Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order by Karen Sepich at 3:34 p.m. in the Wisconsin Room at the Trempealeau County Government Center, Whitehall, Wisconsin on Monday, October 5, 2015.

**Board Members Present:** Richard Frey, Jeanne Nutter, Karen Sepich, Dora Jean Blaha, George Brandt, Wade Britzius, Curtis Skoyen

**Staff Present:** Deb Suchla, Kathy Gauger, Sandy Palkowski, Erin Hilleshiem, Mark Ryskoski, Melissa Jenneman, Mary Manka

Notice was posted according to open meeting law requirements.

**Adoption of Agenda – Motion** by Mr. Frey to adopt the presented agenda; **seconded** by Mr. Britzius. **Motion carried.**

**Minutes of Prior Human Services Board Meeting – Motion** by Mr. Frey to accept the minutes from the September 8, 2015 meeting; **seconded** by Ms. Nutter. **Motion carried.**

**Public Comments** – Erin Hilleshiem handed out green ribbons and buttons “Ask me why I am wearing GREEN” to promote Mental Health Awareness week.

### **6. Staff State Award Recognition**

Ms. Jenneman explained the process of nominating an employee for this prestigious state award in Juvenile Court Intake. Mark Ryskoski has always demonstrated the qualities of someone worthy of this award. He goes above and beyond when dealing with “his young people” and does so with great compassion. Anyone that knows Mark can see that he loves what he is doing, even in those extra tough/abrasive cases. He is there for the families. We are lucky to have him on our team. The Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Association recognition award was presented to Mr. Ryskoski on September 23, 2015 in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

### **7. State Food Share Award**

Ms. Palkowski, Supervisor for Economic Support, divides her work supervising Buffalo, Pepin and Trempealeau Counties. We are eight county consortia and were honored by receiving one of two Food Share awards in the State of Wisconsin. The award was based on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payment accuracy rate above the goal of 98 percent. Our 2014 reported payment accuracy rate of 99.17% demonstrates the quality of service provided by our staff. By receiving the payment accuracy rate award, WREA will be awarded Food Share bonus dollars. In 2014 WREA received \$142,216 bonus dollars for low error rate. Congratulations to the Economic Support staff for doing an excellent job.

### **8. Personnel Update**

Our Economic Support Specialist, Katrina (Seielstad) Longmire transferred to the Long Term Support unit as an Adult Protection worker. That vacated position was filled by Laura Lien and will begin work on Monday, October 12, 2015.

### **9. ADRC by the Numbers**

A handout was distributed and discussed. Ms. Gauger explained how intake calls are currently being handled. The process is being revised to assure that all calls are being tracked and entered into I & A system.

Ms. Gauger informed the Board of issues with just a few riders. Rather than doing a policy procedure, she called the State and came up with County Bus Transportation Expectation and Guidelines. This will be given to current participants as well as new participants. Ms. Gauger explained a case where issues became a problem. Discussion followed and a few revisions to the guidelines were suggested.

**10. Review Progress on Strategic Plan – Priority 3**

Priority 3: How do we resolve inadequate space issues? There are three strategies in this priority. Discussion centered on confidentiality in our reception area. Sound barriers were added. There is a space needs committee already set up in the county. If approved, our current conference room would be used for two new staff for 2016. We are using our space as effectively as we can.

**11. Approve Fee Setting Policy**

Ms. Suchla will bring back the Fee Setting Policy next month.

**12. 2016 Budget Process Update**

Ms. Suchla stated that the State budget is done. One program that changed was Family Support. Not sure what is happening with Family Care and IRIS. Ms. Suchla serves on a Long Term Care Program Action Committee (PAC). She will be meeting on October 22 and two Wednesdays in November regarding the new children COP funding to replace Family Support.

County budget meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 8 starting at 9:30 a.m. for the Human Services Department.

**13. Mobile Crisis Grant Update**

A Mobile Crisis Grant was written, sent in and accepted for 2016. The \$32,000 grant does require a match, but should not be a problem. Letters of support from law enforcement were very beneficial. We are looking forward to exciting changes with this grant that will enable us to provide specific trainings that would include law enforcement.

**13. Financial Report**

Handouts were distributed and discussed. Some losses in the Home Delivered Meal program, but operating in the black is positive.

**14. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m. – next meeting will be Monday, November 2, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rob Reichwein**  
**Secretary**