

LINCOLN COUNTY
Social Services Committee
Thursday April 17, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Health & Human Services Building

Members Present: Loka, Weaver, Krueger, Woller, Zeitz

Visitors: T. Schmidt, Mike Nelson

Election of Officers – Officers to remain the same: Mike Loka Chairman, Ron Krueger Vice Chairman, Robert Weaver Secretary – Election of officers at combined meeting with Veterans Service Committee previously this date at 6:00 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Loka immediately following Veterans Meeting.

2. Next regular meetings May 15, 2008 immediately following Veterans Meeting.

3. Minutes of February 21, 2008 were accepted as printed by Motion/Second (M/S) Krueger/Zeitz – all voting aye.

4. Parental Liability for Short-Term Out of Home Care Policy – Mike Nelson presented the committee with a new charging policy and explained the details of the policy, there has been little effort to collect from parents for short-term out of home placements which the parents have been found liable for by the courts. This new policy formalizes an effort by the Social Service Department to collect some of these funds. The committee understands this policy is needed but also understands that collection procedures must be used judicially. M/S Loka/Krueger to approve policy which will become effective 5-1-08 – all voting aye.

5. Accounting Work Group – Director Schmidt explained the effort to cross train staff and combining accounting functions specifically between Social Service, Development Disability, and Commission on Aging with the county wide Finance Department. The ability for accounting staff to back up each other in a small county like Lincoln is becoming very important. There is immediate pressure to empower staff to become more flexible and efficient as a short term goal within the human services group. There is a county wide effort to strengthen and centralize accounting functions as the result of our auditor's recommendation and other committee actions.

6. Director's Report –

A. Long Term Support – No report.

B. Child Protective Service – Development of Charging Policy as above.

C. Economic Support (Refill Vacancy) and D. Child Support 1. (Refill Vacancy)

The Social Services Director requested authority to refill these two vacancies, not with two full time employees, but with a reshuffle of existing employee and additional new part-time or full-time employees. There will be no additional staffing hours required. The committee agreed with Director Schmidt's proposal and authorized new hiring by M/S Weaver/Krueger – all voting aye. **2. Budget**

Modification – The committee reviewed a list of budget modifications and approved budget modification list by M/S Weaver/Krueger, forward to Finance Department – all voting aye.

7. Program Updates – Director Schmidt reviewed ongoing overbilling issue at Disability Services Program; progress is being made. Wisconsin Public Service sent out over 30,000 disconnect notices state wide. Economic Support has seen an increase in requests for heating assistance involving disconnect notices which requires verification of benefits by Social Services. Due to the National Budget Reconciliation Act, federal IV-E funding will be reduced to 70% in 2009 and none in 2010 which could result in reduced Child Protective Services contracts for services in 2009.

8. Review of Vouchers – Voucher list made available for committee review.

9. Adjourn – M/S Woller/Zeitz to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. all voting aye.

Submitted by,

Robert Weaver
Secretary