

**Meeting Minutes of
LINCOLN COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Wednesday June 3rd, 2020 10:30a.m.**

SERVICE CENTER RM #247/248

PRESENT: Paul Gilk, Dora Gorski Greta Rusch, Patricia Voermans, Robert Lee

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Renee Krueger, Kate Peterson, Nancy Bergstrom, Jason Hake, Christine Vorpapel by phone

1. Meeting Called to Order by Krueger at 10:40a.m.
2. Election of officers
 - i. Chairperson – Nomination for Gilk was declined. Rusch nominated Gorski, nomination accepted. No further nominations. Roll call vote. All ayes. **Gorski** assumed Chairperson’s role.
 - ii. Vice Chairperson – Voermans nominated Rusch, nomination accepted. No further nominations. Lee proposed a unanimous nomination. All ayes. **Rusch** assumed Vice Chairperson’s role.
 - iii. Secretary – Discussion regarding whether this role was necessary. Bergstrom advised yes. Gorski nominated Voermans, nomination accepted. No further nominations. All ayes. **Voermans** assumed Secretary’s role.
3. Approve Minutes of March 11th, 2020 meeting – Motion by Rusch to approve the minutes; second by Gilk. All ayes. Minutes placed on file.
4. Financial Report
 - i. 2019 budget modifications – Krueger explained the process of budgeting “line items” and the changes that occur throughout the year that require the modification. Question was asked as to what liberty the oversight committee has to making modifications. Hake provided explanation. Motion by Voermans to approve the budget modifications; second by Rusch. All ayes. Budget modifications approved.
 - ii. 2020 to date – Krueger provided an explanation as to the changes in formatting to the budget to reflect the program areas for better understanding as discussed in the March meeting. Current expenses are well under budget at this time. Krueger explained additional impacts to the 2020 budget that were unanticipated.
 - a. Amendment to the FFY 2020 WHEAP contract – The director explained that additional emergency crisis funds for energy have been added for the FFY 2020. As part of the additional funding included rental assistance. The rental assistant funds are managed though North Central Community Action Program as opposed to social services.
 - b. COVID funding for Foster Homes – Additional funding was provided to Child Caring Institutions (Lincoln County does not have any at this time) and to children placed in Level 2+ foster care. A one-time payment of

\$400 was provided in April. In addition, Counties are approved to increase the exceptional payments for placements due to the additional constraints on providers due to schools and child care closures.

- c. Social Worker and Child Welfare Support Specialists unfilled positions – The Director informed the committee of a number of factors that have resulted in the decision not to fill these positions at this time and will continue to review for when appropriate.
- iii. 2021 budget discussion and scheduling of public hearing – The Director explained the various funding mechanisms involved in the social services and child support budgets. The Director is currently working with the accountant to develop a budget that represents a 5% decrease in state revenues for social services. Director explained the county level requirements on funding sources and the challenging in decreasing tax levy. Director explained the need for a public hearing. It will be scheduled for 7/8/20 at 10:00am. Gorski and Krueger will be present
5. Director's Report - placed on file
6. Overview of Social Services response to COVID-19 – The Director provided an overview of the service response of the agency during COVID. Due to the number of new child welfare staff, the impact of COVID has allowed expedited and virtual trainings as required. This has resulted in a cost savings to the county as well as provide training early than usually accessible. Additionally, the Director requested that any ability to complete specific trainings applicable to emergency response and shelter through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Director provided a demonstration of the reports created to track and monitor productivity and performance.
7. Central ACCESS (previously known as the CAN Partnership) update – The Director informed that the decision was made to withdraw interest from joining the partnership at this time. Further discussion was held regarding contract and program related concerns. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to reconsider in the future and if so the partnership will be invited to attend a meeting.
8. Director Time Sheets for period 03/09/2020 – 05/31/2020; no March, April, May reimbursement – Motion by Voermans to approve the timesheets; second by Rusch. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Future Agenda – WIOA; YJCC report; Quarterly Report; Lincoln Industries written update
10. Next Meeting Date(s) – July 8th , 10:30a.m Service Center Room 247/248; Public Hearing at 10:00am
11. Adjourn – Motion by Rusch to adjourn; second by Gilk. All ayes. Meeting adjourned 11:50am