

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2021**

Members present: Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Mr. Bob Thome Jr., Mr. Jim Winkler, Mr. Steven Schreier

Members absent: Mr. Mike Roach

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Ms. Tammy Javenkoski, Ms. Jeri Driscoll

Public: None

1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler seconded by Mr. Steven Schreier, to approve the agenda as posted. Mr. VanRaalte called for a roll call vote, all yes, motion carried.

2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – February 23, 2021:

Motion made by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler, to approve the Social Services Committee minutes of February 23, 2021. Mr. VanRaalte called for a roll call vote, all yes, motion carried.

3. Public Comment:

None

Veterans Services:

1. Wreaths Across America Information:

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski reported that Ms. Mary Ingman is the Wreaths Across America Coordinator for the Northwoods National Cemetery. You may go to wreathscrossamerica.org and find out information about volunteering, donating money, sponsoring a wreath, see the locations of all national and state cemeteries, find a specific cemetery. A person may donate a wreath to a specific cemetery or a specific person. The 2021 wreath laying will be at 11:00 a.m. on December 18, 2021.

2. County Veterans Service Officer Grant Legislation:

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski reported Wisconsin Senate Bill 173 proposes to increase County Veterans Service Officers grants. If approved, ours could increase from \$10,000 to \$22,000 per year. The purpose of the grant is to better the lives of Oneida County veterans. The State Administrative Codes says it can be used toward the CVSO's salary, which is what the county does, however, the CVSO feels that doesn't benefit veterans at all. Ms. Tammy Javenkoski will give an update at the next meeting on the status of this grant.

3. 2020/2021 Financial & Statistical Reports, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:

- Ms. Tammy Javenkoski reported that they have scanned an additional 21 files.
- Ms. Tammy Javenkoski provided the committee with the Veterans Service Office's Report for February 2021 as well as invoices for the Spring/Summer Conference that will be held at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. Ms. Javenkoski reported that there were no line item transfers in the month of February. Motion made by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve Veterans Financial and Statistical Report as well as the invoices that were presented for the month of February 2021. Mr. Alan VanRaalte called for a roll call vote, all yes, motion carried.

4. Public Comment:
None

5. Agenda items for future meetings:

- Update on County Veteran's Service Officer Grant Legislation

Social Services:

1. Family First Update – Department Priorities:

- Ms. Mary Rideout gave an update on Family First. They have given 5 different presentations thus far on Family First.
- Program from DCF has not yet been established. Oneida County Social Services has surveyed our front line workers to see what they think is needed within the department to keep kids in homes if they could have anything they wanted/needed. The following is the top suggestions:
 - o Add an additional Aide or Para-Professional (maybe two) to do duties that would help the Social Workers.
 - o Increase the number of Ongoing Social Workers. DCF is currently doing a study on Social Worker caseloads. Once this is complete, we will determine need.
 - o Lead Social Worker – this would be a step between the front line social workers and the supervisor.
 - o Affordable Housing – this is a great need in Oneida County.
 - o Crisis Planning – help line for parents that are having trouble with kids. Ms. Mary Rideout needs to get more specifics on what this all entails.
 - o Volunteer Program – Currently working with the ADRC on how to use Volunteers at the ADRC to assist our families.

2. Human Service Center System Review Update:

- Ms. Tamara Feest gave the Human Service Center System Review Update. They are wrapping things up. Received the signed Conflict Resolution Protocol from Vilas County, still need Oneida and Forest Counties. Mary will follow up with Oneida County on the Conflict Resolution Protocol.

- January's Training was for 'Ethics & Conflicts of Interest' and February Training was for 'Roles & Responsibilities, will continue to do monthly with the board.
- Residential Treatment Facilities are MA approved. Working on negotiations. Koinonia is now accepting Medical Assistance thus they have a waiting list. If they have individuals that are unable to pay, the Human Service Center provides funding.

3. ADRC and Social Services Alliance Updates:

Things seem to be going well. Mr. Joel Gottsacker was named Assistant Director at Social Services, training is occurring. He will still remains the ADRC Manager, this is a dual role. Currently have a System Improvement Group that is working on integration.

4. Emergency Social Services Plan Review:

Mr. Tom Eernisse presented the Oneida County Department of Social Services Emergency Operations Plan. The purpose of this is to have a plan in place should it be needed in an emergency i.e. tornado, flood and the courthouse could not be used or if a disaster happened and people needed assistance such as food, clothing, shelter. This plan is updated annually. This plan is just a piece of the plan. Emergency Management would direct as needed. The Social Services Committee which is listed as the Emergency Advisory Committee has two principal functions: To aid in the planning and procedures of the overall emergency social services plans, and to aid in developing the plan of action that should be implemented if a particular disaster that is threatening occurs. It was recommended by the Committee that a presentation be done to the County Board regarding what the board's responsibility is.

5. April Committee Meeting Date:

Ms. Mary Rideout explained that she would not be available for the April 27, 2021 meeting. Mr. Joel Gottsacker and other Social Services Supervisors could do the meeting or we could change the date of the meeting. The Committee decided to keep the meeting on April 27, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. and have Mr. Gottsacker and/or other supervisors present at the meeting. Also discussed was the time of the meetings. The meetings were scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. January through April. The Committee decided to keep the meetings at 9:30 a.m. for the remainder of the year.

6. Agency Update: Staffing, Drug Endangered Children (DEC) numbers 2020, Community Donations, Anti-Sex Trafficking temporary funding for 2020.

- Staffing/Vacancies
 - o We currently have only one vacancy, at the ADRC, which is currently filled with a part-time LTE.
 - o Lead Supervisor Position. The Lead Supervisor position is the position in the department that is second in command, and is responsible for department operations in the absence of the Director. This position has been vacant since the end of 2019 pending the decision on the merger with the ADRC. The position was posted this past month. Joel

Gottsacker, ADRC Manager, has been appointed to fill that position. We also requested that the title be changed to Assistant Director to better describe the position and to be consistent with other County departments.

- Drug Endangered Children (DEC):
 - o Ms. Mary Rideout explained that the agency had a total of 273 Child Abuse and Neglect (CAAN) referrals in 2020. Of those referrals, 159 were DEC referrals (58% of all referrals). Methamphetamine had 58 total referrals or 36% of all DEC referrals. Methamphetamine continues to be the number one substance we see.
 - o Vilas and Oneida County DEC committees hosted a training featuring Dr. Kristen Iniguez, the Medical Director of the Marshfield Child Advocacy Center. Dr. Iniguez provides care for drug endangered children. The afternoon session consisted of a presentation by Buffalo County DEC Team. The presentation included information on roles of officers and social workers on scene of the call, including details of search and interview processes. There were 87 zoom participants including presenters.
- Community Donations:
 - o Staff received two very nice donations in the month of March from the community. The Oneida County Dairy Promoters (Mr. Jim Winkler, Chair) donated \$10 Culver's gift certificates and a hand written thank-you to each Social Worker at the ADRC and Social Services in honor of Social Work month. Funding from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. In addition, the 2020 RHS Wisconsin Ambassadors of Music donated \$10 gift cards from local businesses to each employee of the ADRC and Social Services. Due to their 2020 music trip being canceled, they used their funds to support local businesses and thank front-line workers.
- Anti-Sex Trafficking Temporary Funding Pool:
 - o The Department applied for and received an additional \$99,502.77 in Anti-Sex Trafficking funds for 2020. These funds are available to provide services to eligible youth when available.
 - o We also applied for, and received, an additional \$5,364 in Youth Aids Emergency funds for 2020.

7. 2020 Financial & Statistical Reports, Quarterly Workers Compensation Report, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:

- Ms. Mary Rideout explained that \$239,000 is estimated to be returned to the county for 2020, which will be recognized by the Finance Committee after the Auditors are here in April. In 2021 we are projecting a \$100,000 deficit.
- Continue to see an increase in economic needs i.e. Food Share, Badger Care as nobody has been taken off the program due to the pandemic.
- Agency is seeing approximately 30 more cases per month, which is a substantial increase. Cases are staying open as well as getting new cases.

It was suggested to bring this information to the County Board so they are aware and it may be justification for additional staffing.

- Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome to approve Financial and Statistical Reports, and Vouchers as presented. There were no line item transfers. Mr. VanRaalte called for a roll call vote, all yes, motion carried.

9. Public Comment:


None.

10. Agenda Items for future Meetings:

Update on Lincoln Hills
Retired Citizen Volunteer Program

11. Adjourn:

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Alan VanRaalte to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Room.



Mr. Bob Thome Jr.



Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Chairperson

Date: March 23, 2021