

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 28, 2021**

Members present: Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Mr. Steven Schreier, Mr. Jim Winkler (Zoom), Mr. Michael Roach (Zoom), Mr. Bob Thome, Jr. (Zoom)

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout (Zoom), Mr. Jason Dailey, Ms. Jeri Driscoll,

Other: Ms. Kelly Holm from the Lakeland Times attended the meeting. Introductions were completed.

**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. Bob Thome, Jr., to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

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

Motion made by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler, to approve the Social Services Committee Minutes of November 23, 2021. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Public Comment:**

No comments.

**Veterans Services:**

**1. Northwoods Homes for Heros Update:**

Mr. Jason Dailey reported that there is nothing new to report.

**2. 2022 Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Grant:**

The grant amount is \$11,000. This is complete except going in for signatures.

**3. Long Range Plan:**

Long Range Plan was submitted for review. We are limited as to what can be done due to Federal, State Laws etc. We distribute information and help Veterans as the need arises. Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve the Long Range Plan. All ayes; motion carried.

**4. Wreaths Across America:**

Wreaths Across America occurred on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at the Northwoods National Cemetery. This was the first ceremony at this cemetery. Approximately 100 graves were covered and over 100 people attended. You can view the ceremony at: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/WINWNC](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/WINWNC), <https://youtu.be/60Lny0fLJgw>

**5. 2021 Financial & Statistical Reports, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:**

Mr. Jason Dailey presented the statistical report and vouchers. There were no line item transfers. Mr. Dailey reported that they will be going to an eSign Genie Software so people can sign documents electronically. The cost of this is \$240.00 for a yearly subscription. Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Michael Roach to approve the statistical report and vouchers. All ayes; motion carried.

**6. Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**7. Agenda items for future meetings:**

- Electronic Signature
- Update Northwoods Homes for Heroes
- Usual Agenda Items

**Social Services:**

**1. 2022 Purchase Orders:**

Ms. Mary Rideout discussed the 2022 Purchase Orders. This would authorize Social Services to pay expenses every 2 weeks. These are things that were approved in the budget but would allow us to pay them without coming to the committee every time. Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr. to approve the 2022 Purchase Orders. All ayes; motion carried.

**2. Update on request for COVID Relief Funds for Children Services Support Worker:**

Ms. Mary Rideout presented the three documents in each packet. This was approved at the last meeting but it will be going to the LRES Committee, then to the Admin. Committee and then to the County Board. Hopefully this will all be occurring in the month of January. This is informational only so the committee knows what will be presented at the other committee meetings.

**3. 2019-2021 Long Range Plan Review:**

The 2019-2021 Long Range Plan was reviewed. Staff were involved in the process and adjustments were made as needed. We met many of the goals. This is informational only, no action needed.

**4. Approval of 2022 State/County Contracts for Child Support and Children First:**

Ms. Mary Rideout explained that we are waiting for Corporation Counsel to review. No action taken at this time.

**5. Adult Protective Services – Service Review and Statistics:**

In November 2021, Social Services had 49 Open Adult Protective Service (APS) Cases. APS referrals are investigated by Oneida County Department of Social

Services. Referrals are received from any source on behalf of person 18 years of age or older who may be experiencing physical, emotional or financial abuse (exploitation) as well as neglect and self-neglect.

There are two new APS initiatives in 2022: Dementia Innovation Project (See #6 below) and Hoarding Task Force. Oneida County Department of Social Services has had a significant number of referrals recently related to hoarding and/or unsafe living situations. These referrals often involve competent individuals who are reluctant to seek and/or engage in services and there is a high rate of reoccurrence after the initial clean up if underlying mental health concerns are not addressed. In order to effectively deal with the safety concerns and develop a comprehensive plan, it is necessary for various county departments to work together. The Department held an initial meeting of stakeholders including DSS, Health Department, Human Service Center, Animal Shelter, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Family Care MCO's, ADRC and Rhinelander City Administrator. The next meeting of this group is planned for February.

**6. Dementia Innovations:**

This project focuses on improving the Dementia Crisis system, for which the most extreme intervention involves law enforcement detaining the person in crisis and having them admitted to a mental health institute in Madison or Winnebago. Our APS workers are often one of the first responders to one of these referrals. A shortage of in-home providers, beds in facilities and low staffing have forced hospitals to keep clients beyond when they are medically ready for discharge. Dementia Innovations was developed in Sheboygan County, and attempts to address a dementia crisis as a medical crisis, and not one for law enforcement. The core team for this project consists of APS, the "51 system" (detention in a mental health facility), emergency management, emergency medical services and Long Term Care. The cost of this is \$6800, which will be funded from the additional APS-COVID funds. We will not be using any tax levy dollars. Once a Dementia Care Specialist is hired, they would also be part of this group. Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Michael Roach to approve the Dementia Innovations. All ayes, motion carried.

**7. 2022 Committee Meeting Dates:**

We will continue to meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**8. Agency Update – Staffing, Thanksgiving Donations, Agency Remodel, Agreement with Forest County:**

- Staffing/Vacancies:

- o Preliminary interviews for the Dementia Care Specialist position were completed December 20, 2021. Second interviews will be scheduled for early January 2022.
- o We are still trying to hire an LTE to assist Public Health with outreach to older adults, caregivers, and others, this position is funded by a grant provided by the Administration for Community Living and the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention. We have not received any applications for this position.

- Thanksgiving Donations:
  - o Thanksgiving donations were down substantially this year. We were only able to serve 13 Families this year.
- Agency Remodel:
  - o We have formed two committee of staff members, one for the visitation room and one for the larger office area, to review plans (when we get them) and make suggestions.
- Agreement with Forest County:
  - o The Department of Children and Families has approved the agreement with Forest County.

**9. 2021 Financial & Statistical Reports, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:**

The committee reviewed the Financial/Statistical Reports, Vouchers and Audit of Payment. The projected 2021 surplus for the Department of Social Services is \$ 178,713.00

- Motion by Mr. Jim Winker, seconded by Mr. Steven Schreier to approve Financial and Statistical Reports and Vouchers as presented. There were no line item transfers. All ayes; motion carried.

**9. Public Comment:**

No comments.

**10. Agenda Items for future Meetings:**

- Lincoln Hills Update
- Usual Agenda Items

**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 11:12 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Room.

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Mr. Bob Thome Jr.

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Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Chairperson

Date: December 28, 2021