

KEWAUNEE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 12th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kaye Shillin at 8:34 a.m. Present for the meeting were Mary Ellen Dobbins, Virginia Haske, Shirley Kirchman, Lee Luft, Rose Quinlan, Paul Ravet, Kaye Shillin, Mary Ann Szydel, Linda Teske and Donna Thomas.

Also present: Lois Mischler, Sue Lockwood and Bob Mattice

Absent: Mark Buchanan

Excused: None

A motion was made by Virginia Haske and seconded by Mary Ellen Dobbins to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mary Ann Szydel and seconded by Donna Thomas to approve the September 14th, 2016 minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Lois Mischler, Vice President of Family Services and Sue Lockwood, Director were here from Willow Tree Child Advocacy Center and are located in Green Bay, Wisconsin. They are one out of 14 child advocacy centers in Wisconsin. They were formed back in January 2011. They have a therapist, prevention specialist, victim advocate for the child, and a nurse practitioner who is trained in child abuse and is supervised by pediatricians whom are also trained in child abuse. They can identify abusive injuries versus every day type of minor injuries. Since January, 2015 Kewaunee County has sent a total of 32 children to Willow Tree for structured forensic interviews. While some of these interviews are done by trained law enforcement officers here in Kewaunee County the most serious and difficult cases are referred to Willow Tree. They create an environment that is child friendly and sensitive. A trained interviewer works with the child to discuss child abuse and neglect in a manner that the child is comfortable to explain their story. The interviewer also works with the county social worker, law enforcement and other members of the team for this child. By bringing the child to this warm and safe environment we are able to help the child tell his or her own story in a less traumatic way. They record the interview which helps later in the court case to lessen the time that the child has to be in a court setting. For example this taped interview can be used instead of the child needing to testify at a preliminary hearing. Sue Lockwood and Lois Mischler completed their presentation by describing how they assisted Kewaunee County in a very difficult child abuse case. They have worked with 17 counties in the state and are requesting funding from Kewaunee County to help sustain their budget in the amount of \$7,500.00. They have worked with Kewaunee County since opening in 2011 and have not asked for any financial help. The costs that this could have been to Kewaunee County could have been rather extravagant.

The human services board supports giving \$7,500.00 to Willow Tree for their continued efforts in working with Kewaunee County children that are abused and neglected. A motion was made by Rose Quinlan and seconded by Lee Luft to recommend that the Finance Committee fund Willow Tree Child Advocacy Center \$7,500.00 in the 2017 Human Services budget. Motion was carried.

There is support to start up the Eastern Region Human Services Board Association which was done in the past. Bill Topel, Winnebago County Director, is talking about having the first meeting on January 20th at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton. In the past human service board members and directors were invited to participate in this meeting. A representative from Wisconsin County Human Services Association would possibly be at this meeting along with a speaker and it would allow time to discuss things with other counties in the region.

Bob also brought up that there will be a state conference on Thursday, December 1st and Friday, December 2nd, 2016 with the Wisconsin Counties Human Service Association (WCHSA) in Stevens Point. At this point, we have not seen any more information and we will send it out as soon as it is distributed to us.

Bob announced the following updates to employees. Joe Felion is a contracted CPA whom is helping us to distinguish budget revenues and expenses in a more understandable way. Corrina Dantoin will be the new social worker in the Child and Family Unit. She is a county employee. Billy Baierl will be a contracted employee in our CCS program. We have completed the interview process for the CCS Director and are in the process of making a decision. Bob also said that one of his missions is to put together some information to show the number of families Kewaunee County Department of Human Services interacts with. He is also interested in possibly bringing in individuals or families to discuss their involvement with us to give people a better understanding about what we really do and how it impacts the citizens of Kewaunee County. It was also brought up that this is a very sensitive area and that confidentiality is a very important aspect of everything that we do. The director also wanted to share a positive comment from a recent EM1 commitment that was done and how the family thanked all of the crisis staff and law enforcement in the wonderful job they did at a very difficult time for their daughter. Also, the Resolution in Support of Increased Funding in the Children and Families Aids Allocation should be on the agenda at the October 18th county board meeting. Bob wanted to remind the committee that there is Trauma Informed Care Parenting Training at Kewaunee County. This is a combined training for Kewaunee and Door Counties. The participants will be staff, foster homes, kinship homes, and biological parents. This training is composed of 8 two hours sessions. This is a part of a grant that Bob received.

There were two contracts for our CCS program which will be 100% reimbursed through medical assistance. Motion made by Rose Quinlan and seconded by Virginia Haske to approve the contracts as requested. Motion carried.

Motion made by Linda Teske and seconded by Virginia Haske to approve the vouchers and credit card vouchers as requested. Motion carried.

Motion made by Paul Ravet and seconded by Donna Thomas to approve the travel as requested. Motion carried.

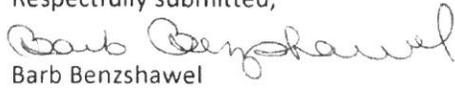
There were no public comments.

Linda Teske wanted to mention F.A.C.E.S., which is a prevention program. It is for youth in regards to smoking cessation and controlling drug and alcohol abuse.

It was asked that a previous scheduled date and time for the November meeting be changed to Tuesday, November 8th, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. It was in agreement to change the date.

Motion made by Virginia Haske and seconded by Mary Ellen Dobbins to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Barb Benzshawel in cursive script.

Barb Benzshawel