

Ward County Social Service Board
Minutes
 March 21, 2017 – 8:00 AM
 Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Jim Rostad, Chairman
 Shelly Wepler, Vice Chairperson
 John Fjeldahl

Larry Louser

ABSENT: Alan Walter

Also present was Melissa Bliss, Director and Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the Minutes of the February 21st , 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Larry Louser and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the bills according to the attached list and following summary.

Social Welfare Expenditures

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	6,067.00
BOARD MEMBER EXPENDITURES	287.78
ADMINISTRATIVE PAYROLL	318,272.32
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	6,883.50
TRAVEL & REGISTRATION FEES	5,968.20
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM	.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	.00
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	74,605.52
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT & LIFE	42,064.08
SOCIAL SECURITY& MEDICARE MATCH	23,612.01
PARENT AIDE EXPENDITURES	5,008.50
WRAPAROUND SW EXPENDITURES	14,736.34
SAFETY PERMANENCY FUNDS	1,402.18
WELLNESS COMMITTEE	.00
FC PROGRAM EXPENSE	15.00
FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION	1,295.25
TECS./VISION/SAMS OPERATIONAL COSTS	.00
EBT FOOD STAMP COSTS	.00
TOTAL SOCIAL WELFARE EXP	505,313.25

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Weppler, seconded by John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the February 2017 Recap and Revenue Report.

The General Assistance approvals and denials were reviewed.

Director Melissa Bliss provided a Legislative Bill update to the Board. SB 2293 was written with the support of the ND Board of Social Worker Examiners and sought to more specifically define the field of Social Work and case management in ND. The bill was heard at the 3/8 meeting of the Human Services Committee, but no vote was taken. At this point, the bill doesn't appear to have much support in the House, even with the amendments that were pushed by the County Director's Association.

SB 2206 had a hearing on March 15th. All who testified were in favor of the bill. The last the Association heard, there was a hold put on the bill and it didn't move from the Finance/Taxation Committee to Appropriations. Perhaps there is some work being done on some amendments to the bill.

HB 1338 regarding indigent burials would expand the family relations as to who is responsible for the duty of disposition. If there are insufficient funds or if the family has not made arrangements for disposition of the body within 15 days of death, the county is then responsible for the burial. The bill states that the County may not decrease the amount of payment to the funeral home if the family is able to come forth with any funds. The bill passed 30-16.

SB 1308 relating to the drug testing for TANF recipients was defeated.

SB 2060 had a hearing on March 14th but was not voted on. This bill would change the wording of "may" to "shall" in regards to the CSS notifying parents of any child in a child care home or center when an owner, operator, adult staff member or adult household member providing care to the child is involved in an investigation of suspected child abuse/neglect. The concerns could involve children not in the child care facility or home and a summary of the facts of the case and case decision would be required to be provided.

SB 2116 which clarified the disclosure of medical and behavioral health records to CPS and to Social Services in Services Required cases was passed as amended and has been returned to the Senate.

SB 1227 which would have set up a Medicaid fraud unit to investigate provider fraud failed.

In regards to recent hiring updates, Melissa informed the Board that we have hired for our vacant Eligibility Worker position as well as our vacant Family Service Specialist-CPS position. We currently have two vacancies for Family Service Specialist workers in the foster care unit.

Melissa indicated that the most recent unemployment claim by a Family Service Specialist worker in the CPS unit, has been denied. However, our agency is still considered 'chargeable' which could result in a future financial obligation by the county, if the financial and timeframe guidelines are met for the unemployment claim, with the worker becoming employed in the future and again leaving that position.

Melissa informed the Board of an upcoming Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Open House which will be held in the Administrative Building in Room 106 on March 31st from 2-4 pm. She also brought some items which have been purchased by the Recruitment and Retention Grant along with brochures, to aid in foster parent recruitment.

Additionally, Melissa read a letter from a grandmother who became a licensed foster parent for her grandchildren and is soon to become their adoptive parent. This grandmother praised our foster care system and those workers whom she had worked with throughout the foster care and adoption process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 am.

Jim Rostad, Chairman

Date

Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary