

Juneau County
Human Services Board Minutes
December 19, 2018

The Human Services Meeting was called to order by Mike Kelley in the County Board Room. It was noted that the meeting had been posted in accordance with the law.

Present: Mike Kelley, Tim Cottingham, Carl Wildes, Joe Lally, Peg Saylor, Orville Robinson, Carrie Buss, Scott Ethun

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Peg Saylor and seconded by Joe Lally to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2018 meeting. Motion carried.

Child Protection Unit Presentation

The Child Protection unit includes Kelly Firlus, Manager; Coralie Burrows, Supervisor; Kasey Banker, Youth Justice Worker; Carla Planta and Kersten McChesney, Family Support Workers; Denise Filter and Paris Thurber, Initial Assessment Workers; Michaela Vinz, Kassandra Murphy, and Sara Bodendein, Ongoing Workers; Bradley Ehleiter, Access Worker (LTE). Many of the staff is new with less than a year of experience. The turnover and training of new staff has been a challenge for this unit. In spite of these challenges they continue to strive to reunify families or place children in permanency. In 2018, 34 children were permanently placed, 33 in physical care and 41 open cases. Many of the children in physical care have been placed with family members. Corporation Counsel remains an active role in cases of children placed in out of home care. The United Methodist Church in Mauston continues to support this unit through donations from the congregation, Kids for Keeps. The donations DHS has received through Kids for Keeps has helped many families in need to buy groceries, complete necessary home repairs, buy diapers and clothing for children and many other needs to keep children safe in their homes. Mr. Ethun plans to invite Rachel McDonald from the missions group at the United Methodist Church in 2019 to thank her and the congregation for their donations.

State Collections – Lori Chipman

Lori Chipman, Finance Director reported that the Department of Revenue now offers to Counties a state collection service. Once a client is delinquent in making payment towards bills for 90 days, the County may report to the delinquency to the state. The client is sent a letter to pay within 30 days and if no payment is received the Department of Revenue has the ability to garnish wages, bank accounts and tax intercepts to collect payment. Juneau County will make the change to utilize the Department of Revenue service in late January or early February.

Update on Vacant Positions

Children, Youth, and Families Foster Care Coordinator position remains vacant. Sara Bodendein was promoted to the Ongoing Working position and Kersten McChesney began working December 17th in the Family Support Worker position.

Authorize Signing 2019 Contracts

The County Board authorized the signing of 2019 contracts at the County Board Meeting on December 18th.

Other Business

Mr. Ethun present or invite a WCHSA member to present to the County Board a short presentation requesting Counties to adopt the resolution seeking an annual increase in the Children and Family Aids allocation of \$30 million and invite legislators to discuss the current child welfare crisis. Mr. Ethun will request of David Lasker to prepare a resolution for the County Board to sign.

Items for the Next Meeting

Economic Support Unit Presentation

Next Meeting Date

January 11th @ 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room

Adjourn

A motion was made by Carrie Buss and seconded by Peg Saylor to adjourn the Human Services Board meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Orville Robinson

Orville Robinson, Secretary

Penny Janecek, Recorder