

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOINT SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2023**

Social Services Committee Members present: Mr. Ted Cushing, Mr. Jim Winkler, Ms. Linnaea Newman, Mr. Bob Thome Jr. (Zoom), Mr. Anthony Rio (Zoom).

Public Safety Committee Members present: Mr. Russ Fisher, Mr. Tom Kelly, Mr. Steven Schreier (Zoom)

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Mr. Joel Gottsacker, Ms. Heidi Chavez, Ms. Beth Hoerchler, Ms. Tammy Javenkoski, Ms. Jeri Driscoll

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance; and Announcements by Chairs:**

The Joint meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee and Public Safety Committee was brought to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr. and Mr. Russ Fisher. The Chairpersons noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

Mr. Bob Thome announced that once the Joint meeting is complete the regular meeting of the Social Services Committee will continue.

**2. Approve agenda for today's meeting, with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion:**

Motion by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman to approve agenda on behalf of the Social Services Committee. All ayes; motion carried. Motion by Mr. Tom Kelly, seconded by Mr. Steven Schreier to approve the agenda on behalf of the Public Safety Committee. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Public Comment:**

Ms. Tamara Feest, Executive Director at the Human Service Center gave history of the Human Service Center. The 51.42 Board was established by the County Boards of Forest, Oneida and Vilas in 1972. She would like the committees to pause on any decision about the Human Service Center's structure. The current agreement is from 1984 and does need to be revised.

**4. Human Service Department Discussion:**

**A. Overview of Human Service Departments (HSD) in Wisconsin:**

Ms. Mary Rideout explained the current structure in Oneida County: Wisconsin State Statutes require Wisconsin Counties to provide certain human services. These services include mental health (MH), public health (PH), alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA), services to persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), child protective

services (CPS), adult protective services (APS) and income maintenance (FoodShare, Medical Assistance, Child Care Assistance).

In Oneida County, these services are largely delivered through the Oneida County Department of Social Services (CPS, APS, ADRC, Child Support, and Income Maintenance) and the Human Service Center (MH, AODA, and I/DD). State Statutes dictating delivery of these services include chapters 46, 48, 55 and 938, currently provided by Social Services and chapter 51, currently provided by the Human Service Center.

While the Human Service Center was created to deliver MH, AODA, and I/DD services for the three counties, it should be noted that it is the Counties who are responsible, by statute, for all Human Services within the county.

Ms. Mary Rideout then went over how Human Services can be structured in Wisconsin:

- A Single County Human Service Department (most common structure)
- Multi County Human Service Department (none currently exist in Wisconsin)
- Single County Department of Social Services (DSS) and Multi County 51.42 Board (our structure)
- Multi County Social Services Department and separate Multi County 51.42 board (None exist in Wisconsin)
- Single County Social Services and Single County 51.42 Board

Current Considerations:

- County Boards can, at any time, determine they want to change the structure of Human Services within their County through a feasibility study and implementation plan. Plans need to be approved by relevant State agencies.
- The current agreement that creates the Human Service Center for Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties is outdated and needs to be updated if this structure is to continue.

**B. Joint Agreement**

**a. HSC Request to update current Tri-County Agreement:** The Human Service Center Board requested to update the current Tri-county Agreement.

**C. Concerns with Current System: Social Services Perspective:**

Ms. Rideout presented information on concerns/problems with the current structure:

1. There is a general lack of understanding of the current structure.
2. Client service coordination is difficult.

3. Employees need to be responsive between departments and understand the importance of services provided to support youth/adults in the community.

Concerns from Law Enforcement were not heard at this meeting, as the committee indicated that they would like those concerns in writing.

**D. Next Steps and recommendations as how to proceed:**

There was discussion on what the next steps should be. The current system can work but it's harder and would take a lot of effort. Need to look at all options to see what best meets the needs. Just updating the contract doesn't address the issues. The committees decided to have Law Enforcement report their specific concerns to the next Public Safety Committee meeting and the Social Services Director report their specific concerns at the next Social Services committee meeting. The Human Service Center should also put together a list of concerns and bring those concerns to the Human Service Center board, as well as prepare for the meeting with the counties. A joint meeting will be scheduled after those meetings are done.

Public Safety and Social Services Committees would like to get the Human Services Board Notice of Meetings as they are not posted on the County's Website so they can possibly attend the meetings.

5. **Public Comment:**  
No public comments.

6. **Adjourn Public Safety Meeting:**  
Joint Social Services Committee and Public Safety was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

**Social Services Committee:**

1. **Minutes of February 27, 2023 Social Services Committee Meeting:**  
Motion made by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2023 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
2. **Public Comment:**  
No Public Comment.

**Veterans Services:**

1. **ARPA funds from WDVA Update:**  
Ms. Tammy Javenkoski reported that they will have a separate line item for the ARPA dollars. They bought things for the Multi-County Veterans Benefits Expo

such as bags, can cozies. There will be line item transfers next month. Informational only, no action needed.

**2. Northwoods Veterans Homestead:**

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski reported that Mr. Jeff Verdoorn, Executive Director of Oneida County Economic Development is willing to help with a business plan. Ms. Javenkoski reported that the city wants money making ventures coming in town for example a Target. They are looking down on bringing in "homeless" people. We need to concentrate on bringing in (homeless) Veterans to increase the workforce.

WEDHA grant development: The grant will be coming out next week. This grant allows for capital growth and is very flexible. This is a six-month process and NVH will need three volunteers to commit completely to not missing any of the training sessions. There are 13 total meetings, some in-person and some online. The in-person meetings will be held in Milwaukee or Madison. The grant team will consist of three positions: Project Manager (Peter Carlson volunteered for this position). The other two positions should probably be a Retired Contractor or a Realtor.

Carla needs help to complete the grant process. The Board agreed to bring on an intern for 180 total hours at \$14.00 per hour to help with Administrative help. Discussed the Up North Expo that was held. A few volunteers were found. Also, Tammy Baldwin's assistant was there and wants our plan right away to cherry pick grants for NVH.

**3. Multi-County Veterans Benefits Expo:**

Ms. Javenkoski explained that they are still working on vendors. In April they will be getting posters up which will include the Vendors participating.

They have hired Wolf River Expo to do the set up and take down. If they have 4-5 volunteers they will get a 15% discount. Informational only, no action needed.

**4. Removed from Agenda.**

**5. 2023 Financial & Statistical Report, Vouchers, Audits of Payments and Line Item Transfers:**

- There were vouchers for Facebook post boost, bags and pens for the Expo as well as Advertisement.
- Reviewed Statistical Report.
- Motion by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman to approve the Statistical Report and Vouchers as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**6. Public Comment: None**

**7. Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**

- Final update for Multi-County Veterans Benefit Expo.
- Northwoods Veterans Homestead
- Line Item Transfers
- Normal Agenda Items

**Social Services:**

**1. Resolution to Amend Resolution #74-2017 Children's Community Options Program:**

The monthly report on this program to the director of Social Services was removed from the Resolution. Motion by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve Resolution #74-2017 as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

**2. Compensation for hourly staff taking on additional duties for other counties and/or organizations:**

It was recommended that Out of Class Pay be instituted: When a Supervisor in the Department of Social Services approves one of their staff to assist another organization, department or unit of the department of Social Services and has not been relieved of their normal work duties, they will meet with the Social Services Director to discuss out-of-class pay. If approved the Director or Social Services will make the request for out-of-class pay to the Human Resources Director. All other provisions of Oneida county Code 4.22 Out-of-Class pay shall apply. Motion by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to forward this proposal to the LRES Committee. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. 2022 Elder/Adult at Risk Statistics:**

Ms. Mary Rideout presented the 2022 Elder/Adult-At Risk Statistics for the committees review. Informational only; no action needed.

**4. Agency Update: Staffing, Remodeling Update:**

Staffing/Vacancies:

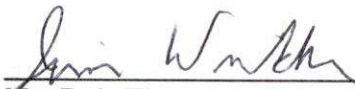
- One of our Children Service's Social Workers resigned and is going to the Human Service Center. We also have a Children Services Support Worker vacancy.


Building Project Update:

- The remodeling is moving along. The cabinets are scheduled to be installed beginning March 27, 2023. Painting of doors and doorframes has begun in our hallways. We are hoping April is a busy month and we can get the remodeling done by May 1, 2023.

Forest County:

- We are continuing to assist Forest County. The Department of Children and Families (DCF), WCA and Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) are also involved trying to find both short and long-term solutions.
5. **2022/2023 Financial & Statistical Reports, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:**  
The committee reviewed the Financial/Statistical Reports, Vouchers, and Audit of Payment. Motion by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the Financial and Statistical Report, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers. All ayes; motion carried.
  6. **Public Comment:**  
No Public Comment.
  7. **Agenda Items for future Meetings:**  
Human Service Center Information/Concerns  
Usual Agenda Items
  8. **Adjourn:**  
There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr. to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be April 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board Room, Oneida County Courthouse.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bob Thome, Chair  
Jim Winkler

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Anthony Rio, Secretary

Date: March 27, 2023