

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2023**

Members present: Mr. Jim Winkler, Mr. Ted Cushing, Mr. Robb Jensen, Ms. Linnaea Newman, Mr. Anthony Rio

Approved absence: None

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

Other: Ms. Tamara Feest, Mr. Keith Haselton, two others from the Human Service Center via Zoom

1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Jim Winkler, Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion by Mr. Robb Jensen, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – June 22, 2023:

Motion made by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Robb Jensen to approve the Minutes of June 22, 2023 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Public Comment:

None

Veterans Services:

1. Northwoods Veterans Homestead Update:

There's a family who lives by the property NVH just purchased and they're concerned about having a tiny home village by them. They will be attending the next NVH meeting to ask questions and get answers. The next step is fundraising for the Northwoods Veterans Homestead. They have about \$20,000 in the bank and they will need about a million dollars to complete the project. Informational only, no action needed.

2. 2023 Financial & Statistical Report, Vouchers, Audits of Payments and Line Item Transfers:

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski reported that they are currently within budget and reviewed the current charges with the committee. Also reviewed the Monthly Report. Motion to receive by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman. All ayes; motion carried.

3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**
 - Request to travel to the fall conference
 - Northwoods Veterans Homestead
 - 2024 WDVA Grant
 - Normal Agenda Items.

Social Services:

1. Mediator for Human Service Center Contract Options:

Ms. Lisa Charbarneau reported that she reached out to the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC). The WERC has been used in the past for union grievances and independent hearing officers (IHO). The employees have exceptional mediation skills. The cost for a mediator from the WERC is a flat fee of eight hundred dollars (\$800).

Ms. Charbarneau reported that she also contacted a legal firm that has a lot of labor experience. Weld Riley are located in Wausau and specialize in employment law. Attorney Dean Dietrich and Attorney Davis Runde would be responsible for this matter. Their cost is two hundred dollars (\$200) per hour plus any mileage, meals or other costs associated with this matter.

Ms. Mary Rideout asked what is being mediated and who would be involved. If it is just Oneida County Social Services she does not feel that a mediator is necessary. The committee had a discussion and felt that all three counties and tribal agencies should be involved including County Board Chairs, Sheriff, Corporation Counsel, Tribal as well as the Human Service Center.

Motion by Mr. Robb Jensen to use WERC at a rate of \$800 plus expenses with the understanding that the Social Services Director contact the other parties involved to see if they would participate, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing. All ayes; motion carried.

2. 2023.2025 State Budget Summary – Social Service Program:

The 2023-2025 budget has been signed by the Governor. There are state investments that included dollars for nursing homes, child support, adult protective services, aging and disability resource centers, income maintenance, and kinship care included in the budget. Wisconsin's counties are grateful for investment in local human services in this biennium and will use these dollars to support

communities across the state. How much Oneida County will receive is not known at this time.

3. Request to move Secure detention for youth from Law Enforcement budget to Social Services budget:

Oneida County along with Vilas County has a contract with Marathon County Secure Detention. Currently when a youth is in secure detention it is billed to the Sherriff Department. We would like to shift those expenses to the Social Services Budget as it is Social Services who determines if a youth goes to secure detention. Motion by Mr. Ted Cushing, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman to shift funds to the Social Services Budget. All ayes; motion carried.

4. 2024 Technology Plan:

The committee reviewed the Oneida County Department of Social Services Technology Plan & Upgrade Schedule. Motion by Mr. Robb Jensen to approve the plan in the amount of \$43,574.00, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman. All ayes; motion carried.

5. 2024 Budget – Decision Items, including request for employee recognition funds:

The goal is to provide exception services to Oneida County residents through appropriate expenditure of funds. Maintaining well trained and highly qualified staff.

Policy Decisions:

Continue to fund **Supportive Home Care Program**

\$15,000 Community Aids (DHS)

\$15,000 Title III-B (GWAAR)

Continue funding for Chapter 55 **Protective Placements**

\$60,000 County tax levy

Fund **Juvenile/Children & Families Program**

\$234,844 Non County tax levy

\$105,198 County tax levy

\$340,042

Continue funding for **Crisis Respite Child Care**

\$ 600.00 Community Aids

\$2,250.00 County tax

\$2,850.00

NEW – Provide funds for employee recognition and retention

\$1,500.00 County tax levy

Historically, agency supervisors and the Director have funded special events for staff recognition, such as meals for in-services and recognition days, welcome gifts for new hires, and gifts/recognition items for special occasions (Social Work month, Administrative Assistants day, etc.). This would allow supervisors a budget for these types of recognition events. (6 supervisors x \$250.00 each unit).

Motion by Ms. Linnaea Newman to approve the 2024 Budget – Decision Items as presented and include in the 2024 budget, seconded by Mr. Robb Jensen. All ayes; motion carried.

6. 2024 On-Call Pay – rate increase request:

Request to increase the on-call pay from \$52.00 per day to \$60.00 per day. This rate has not increased since 2014. Motion by Mr. Robb Jensen to increase to \$60.00 per day and forward to LRES, seconded by Ms. Linnaea Newman. All ayes; motion carried.

7. Agency Update: Staffing/Vacancies, Title IV-E Legal Services Grants, Foster Parent Grant, Capital Improvement requests – Facilities:

Staffing/Vacancies:

- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Coordinator: an internal posting (all Oneida County employees) was done. Interviews will be scheduled for the week of July 17th.
- Economic Support: We received a resignation, and still have the new Economic Support specialist position to fill, so we have 2 positions to fill. We received 30 applications, and testing was completed. Interviews are scheduled for Friday, July 14th.
- Social Worker: We filled the Social Work position with an internal candidate, Krista Payne. Krista will be filling the children Services Worker position and will be eligible for tuition reimbursement.
- Social Services Aide: Krista's former position will be vacant as of August 8th when she transitions to her new position. An internal posting was done. Applications are due by July 14, 2023.

Title IV-E Legal Services Grants:

- Social Services applies for and administers an IV-E Legal Services Grant. These funds help support the legal system for children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS), Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Adoption Legal Services and Legal Representation of parent and children. These funds are provided at the Corporation Counsel's office and the Courts. Total provided in 2022: \$47,076.00.

Foster Parent Grant:

- We were awarded a grant to assist us in retaining Foster Parents.

Capital Improvement requests – Facilities:

- We provided the Buildings and Grounds Department with or “wish list” for capital improvements/maintenance items for the department of Social Services and the ADRC/PH facility.

8. 2023 Financial & Statistical Reports, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:

The committee reviewed vouchers which was mileage from a conference Mary Rideout attended and pictures for the department remodeling. Motion by Mr. Robb Jensen to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing. All ayes; motion carried.

9. Public Comment:

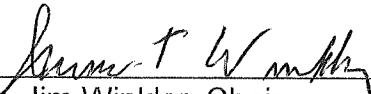
No Public Comment.

10. Agenda Items for future Meetings:

August 17, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Sharon Krouze for Positive Youth Development
2024 Budget
Usual Agenda Items

8. Adjourn:

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Jim Winkler to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be August 17, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.



Mr. Jim Winkler, Chair

Date: July 20, 2023