

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2024**

Members present: Mr. Jim Winkler, Chairperson, Ms. Linnaea Newman, Mr. Ted Cushing (zoom) and Mr. Robb Jensen (zoom)

Approved absence: Mr. Anthony Rio

Staff: Ms. Mary Rideout, Ms. Stephanie Keckeisen, Ms. Tammy Javenkoski and Mr. Joel Gottsacker (zoom)

Other: Mr. Steven Schreier (zoom), Ms. Tammy Stevens (zoom) and 1 unknown

**1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:**

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 1:01 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. Chairperson Mr. Jim Winkler asked to move Agenda item 6, Closed Session, to last. Motion by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

**2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – December 20, 2023:**

Motion made by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the Minutes of December 20, 2023 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Public Comment:**

None

**Veterans Services:**

**1. Northwoods Veterans Homestead Update:**

We are holding a special meeting tonight, January 18, 2024 to discuss a grant that has a short deadline. We don't know a dollar amount as of yet. Our grant writer is working part time, she is willing to quit her job and work solely for the Northwoods Veterans Homestead, however, would need some income. We will discuss paying her a salary at tonight's meeting. We are still holding our meeting in February at the Veterans Center in Rhinelander, WI.

**2. Wreaths Across America:** There were a lot of people that turned out. They had a very structured and formal individual ceremony before they placed the wreaths. Ms. Tammy Javenkoski noted it was very touching.

**3. 2023 Financial & Statistical Report, Department Head Expense Voucher and Vendor Payment Report:**

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski noted they have plenty of money in the budget. We have set a record year. We have used grant money and donations. Walks-ins have increased and we have done more with electronic communication.

**4. Public Comment:** None

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

- Next meeting will be time for Ms. Tammy Javenkoski evaluation
- Northwoods Veterans Homestead
- Normal Agenda Items.

**Social Services:**

**1. Human Service Center Structure Update:**

The December/January 2023 update was sent to the County Board and The Human Service Center. The Human Service Center has reduced on-call hours so they will not be staffed 24/7 but will be staffed from 8:00am to 8:00pm. This will possibly take effect February 1, 2024. The reasoning for cutting the on-call hours is due to lost employees and employee retention. During non-staffed hours people still have access to the crisis line. Ms. Tamara Feest indicated that she is reaching out to Hospitals and Law Enforcement for additional resources. The Human Service Center is currently down 12 employees with another two leaving within the next two months.

**2. 2024 Non-Confidential Contract Approval:**

- a) North Central Health Care-Hospital & Crisis Stabilization Services  
Contract period is 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024. The contract will give access to Crisis Stabilization services and in-patient mental health hospitalization at North Central Health Care in Wausau.
- b) Justice Point – Contracted Service Provider for the Diversion Program  
Contract period is 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024. The contract is for administration & case management services for the Diversion Program. The contract is funded by the Treatment Alternative & Diversion (TAD) program.

Corporation Counsel reviewed both these contracts. Motion by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Robb Jenson to approve both contracts. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Lincoln Hills School Closure Update:**

According to an Article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 11/01/2023, the new Facility should be complete by 2026. Milwaukee plans to expand their other facility,

Vel R. Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center, in Wauwatosa to include 32 beds for youths with hopes to have that complete by 2025.

**4. Agency Update: Staffing, Christmas Program Statistics:**

The Department of Social Services is losing Samantha Malone in Administrative Support. There have been recent recruitments for administrative positions in the county, and quite a few applications so Ms. Heidi Chavez is reviewing those applicants. The Christmas program provided gifts and or gift cards to 136 families and 335 Children.

**5. Change in Meeting Dates for 2024:**

Three meeting dates have changes for 2024; these dates are now: February 22, 2024, May 23, 2024 and August 22, 2024. Rooms where the meetings are held will be doubled checked and corrected if need be on the Meeting Agenda.

**6. 2023 Financial & Statistical Reports, and Vendor Payment Report:**

Doing well for 2023, we should end up with about \$80,000 surplus by the close of the year. The extra will go into the substitute care reserve fund bringing that amount up to around \$200,000 which will help out of home costs. There has been a slight decline in M/A Cases and small decline in food share. The food share benefit amount has increased. Motion by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Ted Cushing to approve the expense travel voucher to Stevens Point for Ms. Mary Rideout. All ayes; motion carried.

**7. Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**8. Agenda Items for future Meetings:**

Usual agenda Items

**9. Closed Session:**

**It is anticipated that motion will be made, seconded and approved by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c).**

**“considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility.” Topics: Department Head Evaluation and Goals; Social Services Director. It is anticipated that the committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.** At 1:38pm Mr. Jim Winkler Motioned to move to Closed Session, Ms. Linnaea Newman seconded. Roll call vote, Ms. Linnaea Newman, yes; Mr. Jim Winker, yes; Mr. Rob Jensen, yes; Mr. Ted Cushing; yes. Motion carried.

The committee moved to close session.

Motion to return to open session by Ms. Linnaea Newman, seconded by Mr. Rob Jensen, roll call vote Ms. Linnaea Newman, yes; Mr. Jim Winker, yes; Mr. Rob Jensen, yes; motion carried.

Mr. Jim Winkler, announced that no further action needed, the committee reviewed Social Services Director Performance Evaluation and goals.

**10. Adjourn:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Jim Winkler to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be February 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

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Mr. Jim Winkler, Chair

Date: January 18, 2024