

**ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2021**

Members present: Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Mr. Bob Thome Jr., Mr. Steven Schreier, Mr. Jim Winkler, Mr. Michael Roach (Zoom)

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

Other: Ms. Kelly Holm, Lakeland Times

Public: None

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

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler seconded by Mr. Steven Schreier, to approve the agenda as posted. All ayes; motion carried.

**2. Minutes of Social Services Committee – September 28, 2021:**

Motion made by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler, to approve the Social Services Committee minutes of September 28, 2021. All ayes; motion carried

**3. Public Comment:**

No public present.

**Veterans Services:**

**1. Northwoods Home for Heros Update:**

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski reported this group had a meeting. She will be reviewing the By Laws from Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin in Racine and changing them to meet their needs and be bringing them to the next Home for Heroes Meeting on November 9, 2021. They are still looking for property within the City of Rhinelander. The purpose of the Tiny Village is to provide temporary housing for homeless veterans while getting them the Mental Health Services, Resume writing or whatever they need to get back on their feet.

**2. 2021 Financial & Statistical Reports, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:**

Ms. Tammy Javenkoski presented the statistical report and voucher. There were no line item transfers. The voucher was for her travel to the CVSOA fall conference in Fond du Lac. Motion by Mr. Jim Winkler, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr. to approve the statistical report and vouchers. All ayes; motion carried.

**3. Public Comment:**

No public present.

**4. Agenda items for future meetings:**

- Fall Conference Update
- Update Northwoods Home for Heros November 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- Wreaths Across America Update
- Usual Agenda Items

**Social Services:**

**1. 2022-2024 Long Range Plan Approval:**

Ms. Mary Rideout and Ms. Heidi Chavez gave an overview of the 2022 – 2024 Long Range Plan. There was some discussion regarding the UW Extension role on the Trauma Informed Care Committee. A comment was made that this plan was very well written. Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve the 2022-2024 Long Range Plan. All ayes; motion carried.

**2. Economic Assistance Programs Update:**

Ms. Lori Garber, Support Programs Supervisor gave an update on the estimated end dates for temporary COVID-19 related policies related to the BadgerCare/Medicaid and FoodShare Programs.

**3. Family First Update:**

Ms. Mary Rideout gave a Family First Update.

- Department of Children and Families Update: Wisconsin's strategic transportation and Family First implementation is evolving. Since 2018, Wisconsin has been progressively working toward transitioning the child welfare system to become more in-home, family-focused and collaborative. The shift in the system began when research indicated that children and families have better results when supported jointly. The transformation is focused on keeping families and children together by serving them in-home with resources and services.
- Oneida County Department of Social Services Update: The department continues to work on our priority list for Family First: Increase in-home services, utilization of the Recovery Coach, increase family time (visitation) for youth placed out of the home. All Children Service's Social Workers and Supervisors will be attending a county specific "learning map" session on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The Helping Children and Families Thrive virtual Learning Map experience is a 2-hour interactive, facilitated discussion with up to 10 participants. Updates to eWiSacwis (statewide child welfare system) will be completed in October 2021. Additional training is being provided in October to staff on changes associated with Family First.

**4. Changes to 2022 Budget:**

Ms. Mary Rideout reported that county tax levy was reduced by \$30,000 at the budget hearings. Subsidized Guardianship will be taken over by the state but this has not been finalized yet. Also \$5,000 was added to our budget from the Finance budget for Generations (Lakeland) Senior Center.

**5. Contract to Perform Child Protectives Services- Forest County**

Ms. Mary Rideout reported that Vilas County already started to assist Forest County but lost two Social Workers and are not able to continue to help Forest County at this time. Oneida County will be taking Access (intake) calls Monday and Tuesday. The contract is finalized and it is in the process of getting signatures. Hopefully we can start assisting Forest County next week. Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Bob Thome, Jr to approve the contract with Forest County. All ayes; motion carried.

**6. Agency Update - Staffing/Vacancies:**

- The worker who was to start with us on September 29, decided to stay in Forest County. We have an accepted offer from another worker; her start date is November 1, 2021.
- The LTE Dining Site Manager for Rhinelander has been filled. The person who used to do this position is coming back.
- We are hiring an LTE to assist Public Health with outreach to older adults, caregivers, and others. This position is funded by a grant provided by the Administration for Community Living and the Centers for Disease control and Prevention. It is being distributed to County and Tribal Aging units to assist with removing barriers to COVID-19 vaccination for older adults, family caregivers, and aging network staff and volunteers.

**7. Closed Session: It is anticipated that a 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." Topic: Approve minutes of February 23, 2021 closed session. It is anticipated that the committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.** (This item was moved and followed agenda item #10). Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to move into closed session at 10:27 a.m. Mr. VanRaalte called for a roll call vote, all yes, motion carried.

Motion to return to open session by Mr. Jim Winkler, second by Mr. Steven Schreier. Mr. VanRaalte called for a roll call vote, all yes, motion carried. Committee returned to open session at 10:31 am.

Mr. Alan VanRaalte announced that the minutes of the February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 closed session were approved by the committee.

**8. 2021 Financial & Statistical Reports, Vouchers, Audit of Payments and Line Item Transfers:**

The committee reviewed the Financial/Statistical Reports, Vouchers and Audit of Payment. The projected 2021 surplus for the Department of Social Services is \$46,963.

- Motion by Mr. Steven Schreier, seconded by Mr. Jim Winkler to approve Financial and Statistical Reports and Vouchers as presented. There were no line item transfers. All ayes; motion carried.

**9. Public Comment:**

No public present.


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

- Forest County Contract Update
- Family First
- Staffing Update
- Safety Committee

**11. Adjourn:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Alan VanRaalte to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 am. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Room.

Approved via Zoom  
Mr. Bob Thome Jr.

  
Mr. Alan VanRaalte, Chairperson

Date: October 26, 2021