

Stark County Social Service Board

May 16, 2016

This meeting of Stark County Social Service board was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman, Russ Hoff.

Present: Diane Mortenson, Russ Hoff, Pete Kuntz, Ken Zander, Jim Hope, Duane Wolf, and Jay Elkin

Absent: Sherry Adams

Motion made by Jay Elkin and seconded by Duane Wolf to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as recorded.

First agenda item was discussed before financials presented.

- 1.) May/Foster Care Month** – Rick Haugen, Foster Care Supervisor, presented an overview on what foster care is, how a child enters the foster care system, what the role of the foster care worker and supervisor are, number of children in foster care in Stark County, and reasons why each child entered. He also spoke of the importance of the foster parents and the need for additional licensed ones in Stark County. There was much discussion that followed regarding court hearings, termination of parental rights, and the need for additional mental health and addiction services in Southwest North Dakota. The board commended Rick and his unit on the great job they are doing.

Financial Statements: Discussion held. Motion made by Ken Zander and seconded by Pete Kuntz to approve the schedules and financial statements as presented. Roll call and motion carried.

End of Month Statistics: All areas were highlighted for program numbers.

Agenda continued:

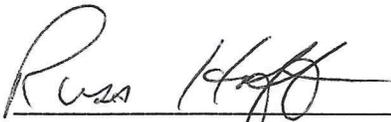
- 2.) Personnel update-** New foster care social worker, Candyce Murphy started on 5/2/16. Employee Lorris Wetzel, DCA II, lost her battle to cancer on 5/4/16. After much discussion due to reimbursement rates lowered starting 7/1/16 in the homemaker program, board granted approval to fill this vacant position while closely monitoring the budget. The remainder of the staff are doing well.
- 3.) Unit updates-** Board was invited to attend the “Prevent child abuse and awareness walk” that will be held at the West River Ice Center on May 21st starting at 10:00 AM. Child welfare numbers continue to be high in all programs. The child care recognition event was held on 5/9/16 with an all-time high number of licensed child care providers and their staff receiving training hours and being recognized. Adult Service numbers remain consistent. Economic assistance programs have seen much activity in openings and closings of cases. Board was informed that Marcy Decker would be assisting in the development of the task management

portion of the new SPACES system even though the reimbursement to the county for her time is different than prior projects. This will be for a two week period in September.

- 4.) **Homemaker reimbursements 7/1/16-** Board was reminded of the changes in the reimbursements to the homemaker service that the county provides. Much discussion followed in monitoring the outcome on the budget, and what is happening statewide with other providers.

Other Business: A bid was received for repaving the Stark County Social Services parking lot 14 feet around the building on three sides, paving the area out to the garage, and repairing some sidewalk areas. Motion made by Duane Wolf and seconded by Jay Elkin to approve the bid, and the monies to be used taken from Capital Improvement Fund.

With no further business to come before the board, Ken Zander motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Pete Kuntz. Chairman Russ Hoff declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.



Chairman, Russ Hoff



Agency Director, Diane Mortenson