

MEETING MINUTES
WATONWAN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
 January 18, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Watonwan County Human Services Board met in regular open session, in the Watonwan County Human Services Community Room, in the city of St. James, MN, on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.**, pursuant to notice given as required by law. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Dillon Melheim.

ROLL CALL

ATTENDEE NAME	TITLE	STATUS
Jim Pettersen	Commissioner – District 1 : <i>2023 Board Vice Chair</i>	Present
Bill Miller	Commissioner – District 2	Present
Jim Branstad	Commissioner – District 3	Absent
Scott Westman	Commissioner – District 4	Present
Dillon Melheim	Commissioner – District 5 : <i>2023 Board Chair</i>	Present
Ted Hedberg	Citizen’s Representative	Present
Dr. Nicolas Castillo	Citizen’s Representative	Present
Amy Pluym	Director	Present
Erin Marks	Support Services Supervisor	Present
Jodi Halvorson	Financial Assistance Supervisor	Present
Barb Salmela-Lind	Community Health Services Manager	Present
Joan Stordalen	Social Services Supervisor	Present
Katy Goldschmidt	Social Services Supervisor	Present

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Pettersen, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes, as presented, from the **December 20, 2022** meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CORRECTIONS / REVISIONS / ADDITIONS to agenda – none

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Hedberg motioned, Miller seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

6. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING will be held Wednesday, **February 15, 2023** at **10:00 A.M.** (*Location: Watonwan County Human Services, Community Room, 715 2nd Ave. S., St. James*)

7. DIRECTOR’S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS – Amy Pluym

- Both revenues and expenditures ended at 95% of the **budget for 2022**. Other budget items noted were the out of home placements were slightly under budget, while child foster care was a bit higher. Reimbursements and fees were up from \$882K in 2021, to \$1.3MIL in 2022.

- Update on **jail nursing**. The sheriff's department contracted with an outside resource to provide these services for them.
- **Southern Minnesota Behavioral Health (SMBG)** updates: Received notice on 1/9/2023 from them stating they would be terminating the Mental Health Client Assistance Program agreement with Watonwan County. They stated that they will only have an office in Mankato and will be servicing private pay and private insurance clients only. Regional counties have offered to collaborate with them on a different process for contracts, however, there has been no response back from SMBH.

8. INCOME MAINTENANCE / CHILD SUPPORT UPDATES – Jodi Halvorson

- The consolidated appropriations act of 2023 approved a permanent summer EBT program, which in return takes the funding away from the **E-SNAP** (emergency SNAP) benefits that have been issued since the beginning of COVID. This will end February with the supplements being issued in March. DHS is working on a communications plan to get this information out to clients and to the general public. Part of their communications will be explaining the program, why it's ending and providing other food resources.
- **Medical assistance** is also no longer tied to the public health emergency. This will mean certain cases/clients eligibility will be ending, new applications will be coming in and new referral will be made to child support

9. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES – Barb Salmela-Lind

- Currently advertising for a new WIC Coordinator.
- Specific updates were provided for the following program areas: Women Infant and Children (WIC), Maternal Child Health (MCH), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Family Planning (FP), Immunizations and Child & Teen Checkup (C&TC).
- Public Health staff are working on getting National Incident Management System (**NIMS**) training completed to help prepare in the event that we ever have a local public health emergency.
- Salmela-Lind is working with Andrea Stevens and a facilitation group to bring ideas to the stakeholders group for the **Opioid Allocation Funds** of **\$64,063.64**. They are focusing on prevention and education to reduce opioid use in Watonwan County.
- **Minneapolis Children's Dental Clinic** was at our facility last Friday, 1/13/2023, and provided dental services to **10 clients**.

10. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATES – Joan Stordalen and Katy Goldschmidt

- **Children's Unit:**
 - Child protection reports have increased as well as truancy rates.
 - Stordalen is the new co-coordinator of the VFC board.
 - An approved plan has been made to utilize the opioid settlement money to support kids affected by drugs and alcohol.
 - Transition planning for the adult unit to fill 3 open positions.

11. PERSONNEL

- Hedberg motioned, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the **Pay for Performance** of:
 - **Brett Beckius**, County Agency Social Worker
 - **Elizabeth Blackstad**, County Agency Social Worker
 - **Kevin Foss**, Family Based Services Provider
 - **Natasha Hanson**, County Agency Social Worker

- Miller motioned, Castillo seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the **Promotion and Probationary Status of Katy Goldschmidt**, from a County Agency Social Worker to the new Social Services Supervisor.

12. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- **SCHSAC** (State Community Health Services Advisory Committee) – *Melheim*
VFC (Visions for Families and Communities) Collaborative – *Hedberg and Branstad*
 - Three items addressed at the meeting: the 2023 tentative budget was presented and accepted, recommendation and approval for a 3% COLA increase for the VFC Coordinator, Shawna Asendorf, and a slight change on the mini-grant application form asking recipients to answer the question “Are you asking another organization for additional funding?”
- **Immtrack** (Regional Immunization Registry) Joint Powers Board – *Pettersen*
- **Brown County Evaluation Center** – *Westman*
- **Enterprise North Inc.** – *Pettersen*
- **MRCI** (Managed Resources Connections Inc.) Board of Directors – *Miller*
 - There was a special board meeting to choose a new CEO.
- **CHS** (Community Health Services) Advisory Board – *Hedberg*
 - \$1K approved to develop biking path.

13. STAFF TRAINING / DEVELOPMENT

- Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve **up to 6 staff** to attend the 2023 Minnesota Social Services Association (**MSSA**) **Conference** in person.

14. MONTHLY FINANCIAL CLAIMS

- Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the regular **monthly claims** and the **monthly credit card payments** as submitted.

15. CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS / POLICIES

- Hedberg moved, Castillo seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the **Termination of the Mental Health Client Assistance Program with Southern Minnesota Behavioral Health.**

16. OTHER

17. ADJOURNMENT

- Having no additional business, Castillo motioned, Pettersen seconded and the motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Marks, Support Services Supervisor

Dated: 2/15/2023

Dillon Melheim, County Commissioner – Board Chair

Dated: 2/15/2023